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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

What do you think is a reasonable rate for Internet access in the CNMI?

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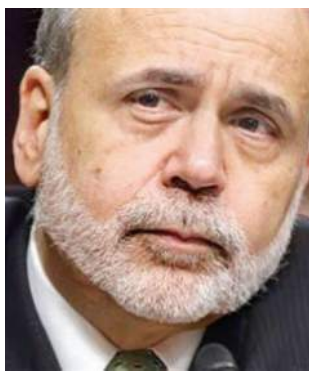

The Federal Reserve tries again to jolt the economy out of its stalled recovery. ➤ PAGE 18

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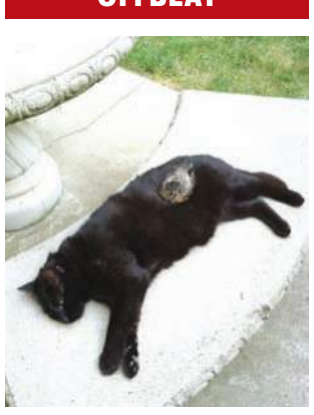

A baby robin spends quality time with some cats in Michigan. ➤ PAGE 21

LIFE & STYLE

WWE superstar John Cena is the most popular celebrity granter in Make-A-Wish history. ➤ PAGE 23

FITIAL, BUSINESSES FIRM UP REQUEST

'Extend transition by 5 years'

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Digital Society Foundation president Chris Sampson, facing the audience, makes a presentation on "Underpinning economic development in the digital age: Connecting the Blue Continent" on the second day of the four-day Association of Pacific Island Legislatures' 31st general assembly at Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan yesterday.

Connecting 'Blue Continent' poses engineering and political challenges

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

If you think the CNMI has reason to complain about costly and sometimes slow Internet connectivity despite the short distance from network hub Guam, then think about Kiribati, Chuuk, Yap, Kosrae, or Palau which have little or no access at all to cable.

» Big digital divide between Kiribati and Hawaii, Guam

"Only the main island of Tarawa has Internet, but only a few have it and they are very expensive. Most [secondary and tertiary] schools do not have computers. Those that have computers do not have any Internet at all," Matiota Kairo, a member of the Kiribati Parliament,

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By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Fitial

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will bring up once again the issue of the CNMI's need to extend by five more years the federalization transition that is set to expire in 2014, this time at the annual meeting of U.S. governors in July, because the Fitial administration said the U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Congress have not heeded the governor's request since at least 2010.

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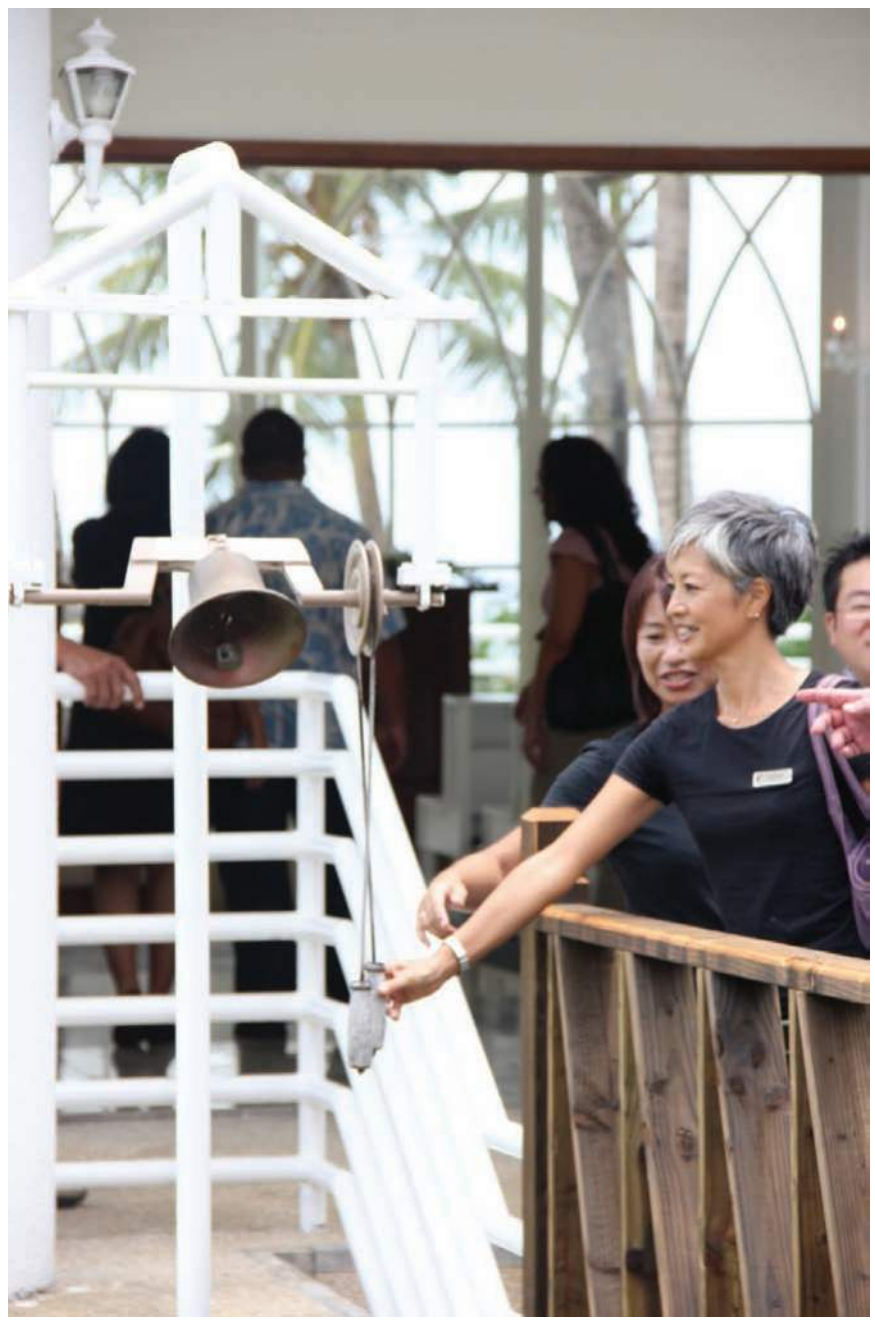

Saipan Grand rebrands as Kanoa Resort Saipan

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Tan Holdings, which operates a portfolio of hotels in the Marianas, officially launched yesterday the Kanoa Resort Saipan, strengthening the commitment of the family-run business to the growth and development of the CNMI.

Formerly the Saipan Grand Hotel, Kanoa Resort Saipan will position itself on island as a flagship hotel, boasting well over $1 million worth of upgraded facilities.

Kanoa Resort Saipan is located along

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A guest rings the bell at the entrance to the newly built chapel of the Kanoa Resort Saipan. The former Saipan Grand Hotel officially launched its new name yesterday after well over $1 million worth of renovation work.
CLARISSA V. DAVID ➤

Work on airport runway temporarily stopped. PAGE 5
Fund optimistic on release of benefits on June 30. PAGE 6

Local

Bill seeks to cut retired officials, judges' 3-pct. annual pension increase

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

To help prolong the NMI Retirement Fund's lifespan so that retirees will continue to get their pensions, a lawmaker is now drafting a bill seeking to remove the annual 3 percent increase in pension of "all" retired elected officials, judges and justices, as well as cap at $25,000 annually the pension received by surviving spouses.

In an election year, it is hard to expect any of the lawmakers to "do the right thing" to help save the Fund, but Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) said yesterday the CNMI cannot afford to sit idly by while most retirees lose their pension if nothing is done to address unfunded liabilities.

Some retirees that would be affected by Palacios' proposal declined to comment yesterday, saying they would wait for the bill to be finalized.

Under Palacios' proposal, all retired elected officials, judges, and justices will no longer receive the 3-percent annual increase in their pension which he said is one of the unfunded liabilities that need to be eliminated.

"So if they served 10 or 20 years in office, you multiply 10 or 20 by 3 percent, that's 30 percent or 60 percent on top of their regular pension," he said, adding that he will also meet with retirees and stakeholders on the proposal.

Another of his proposal is to cap at $25,000 the pension amount that a surviving spouse of a retiree can receive.

Palacios cited that a surviving spouse of a former official has been receiving $80,000 or 50 percent of that former official's annual salary.

He said this is unfair to most retirees receiving less than $25,000 in pension annually. His proposal is to cap the surviving spouse's annual pension at $25,0000.

Palacios, at the same time, said only the Legislature can reduce retirees' regular pension, and not the Executive Branch.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the Fitial administration's pension recovery and survival plan does not seek to reduce pension.

"The governor and lieutenant governor propose to continue the current pension amount and fund 50 percent through line-item appropriation," he had said.

Mori visits 'his' coconut tree in Palikir

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—Former Japanese prime minister Yoshiro Mori returned to Palikir on June 10 2012, to enjoy the fruits of a coconut tree he planted when he first visited the Federated States of Micronesia in September 2001.

On Sept. 19 2001, Mori led a delegation to the Federated States of Micronesia to meet with the national leadership as invited by then President Leo A. Falcam. During his meeting with members of the 12th FSM Congress they established the FSM-Japan Parliamentary Friendship League and both Mori and the then Speaker Jack Fritz each planted a coconut tree to signify the cultivation of a new partnership.

In September 2008 Mori again visited FSM, this time at the invitation of Speaker Isaac V. Figir and members of the 15th FSM Congress. Congress acknowledged his prominent role in the successful realization of undertakings such as Pohnpei's airport extension, completion of its circumferential road and the appointment of a resident ambassador to the FSM.

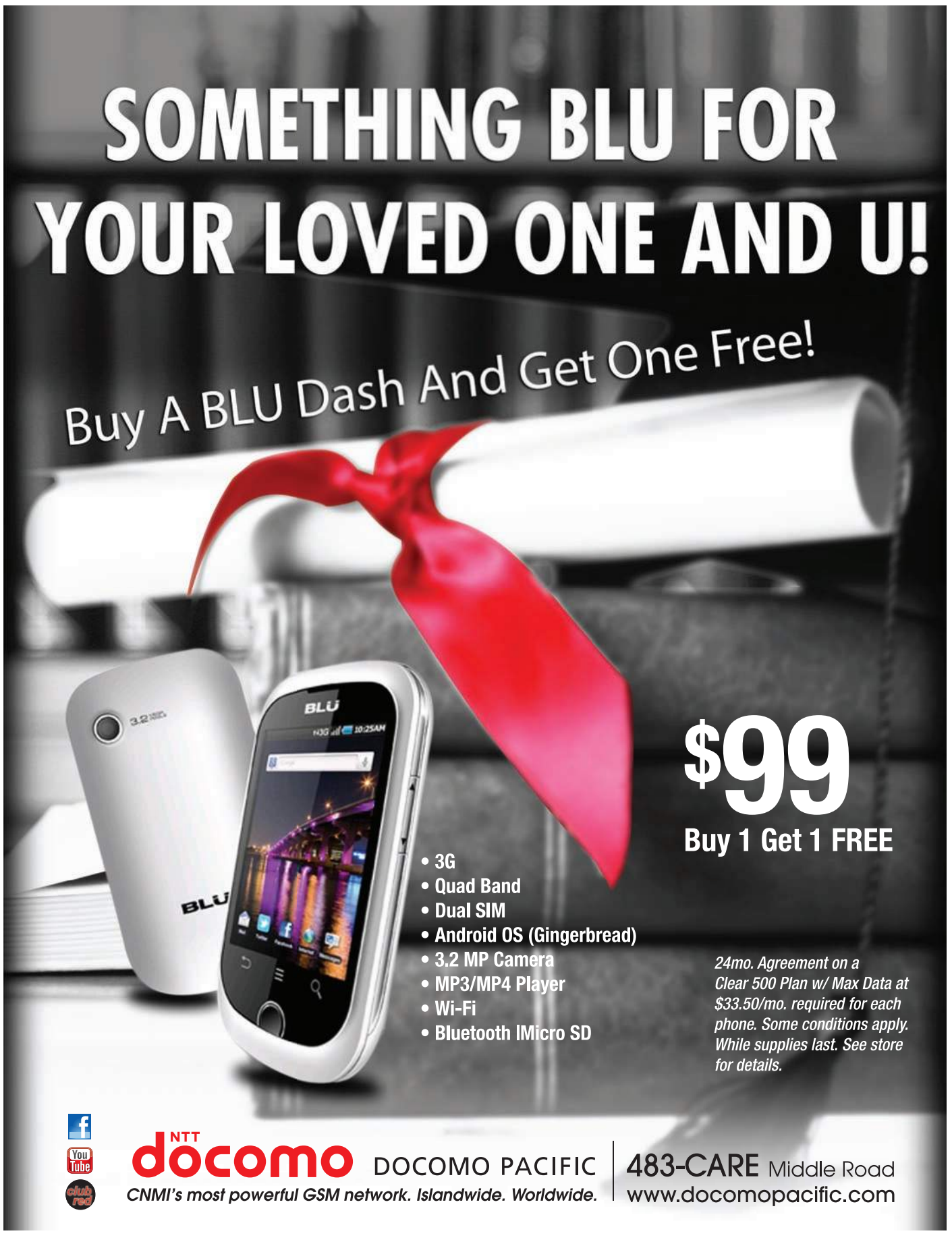
On this third visit, Mori joined Japan's 120-member delegation on the inaugural direct-flight from Japan to FSM on June 9 to officially witness the completion of the Japan-funded runway extension and facility improvement of the Pohnpei International Airport.

After the ceremonies for the inaugural flight, on June 10 2012, Mori returned to Palikir with a small 11-member delegation accompanied by Ambassador Eiichi Suzuki of the Japan Embassy in the FSM and Ambassador John Fritz of the FSM Embassy in Japan to see his fruit-bearing coconut tree.

As part of the invitation, Mori addressed Congress where he called on the leadership of the FSM to explore further means of enhancing the FSM-Japan relationship.

Vice Speaker Berney Martin and Sen. Roger S. Mori welcomed Mori and his delegation with refreshments mostly from the coconut tree. Mori was pleasantly surprised by the development of his tree, which was bearing fruits, and was equally delighted when provided a coconut drink from his tree along with a hat woven from the fronds.

The visit wrapped-up close to two hours later and the group headed out to visit the ancient ruins of Nan Madol. ***(PR)***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IN SEXUAL HARASSMENT SUIT VS PRINCIPAL

PSS ordered to produce documents requested by accuser

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court has ordered the Public School System to produce documents being asked for by a security guard who is suing Hopwood Junior High School principal Jonas Barcinas for alleged sexual harassment.

In an order issued Wednesday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted Homayan Kabir's motion to compel PSS to respond to his interrogatory.

Manglona, however, limited the scope of Kabir's request for information outside of Barcinas' personnel file to 2001 through 2007.

As for any information that PSS may have received from a student, parent, PSS employee, or another person that pertains to a sexual harassment or improper conduct by Barcinas, Manglona said that these documents shall be presented to Kabir's lawyer for review.

The judge said that Kabir and his counsel, and all of his agents, shall be subject to a protective order.

Under the protective order, the information is limited to use in this case only; access is limited to Kabir and his attorney, Joseph Horey; additional photocopies of information may not be made; any testimony regarding any student's records shall occur during proceedings closed to the public; and the disclosed information shall be turned to the school system at the end of the lawsuit.

Kabir was employed as a security guard at Dandan Elementary School from April to October 2005 and again from July to October 2006.

In November 2007, Kabir filed a sexual harassment against Barcinas and PSS. He alleged that Barcinas, who was then principal at Dandan Elementary School, sexually harassed him by making repeated sexual advances on him.

Barcinas has denied the allegations. He earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that the security guard was only making up the story and that Kabir should apologize to him.

In a motion to compel, Kabir's counsel asked PSS to identify each and every communication from any student, parent, PSS employee, or any other person alleging that Barcinas has, while employed by PSS, engaged in sexual harassment.

Kabir demanded that PSS describe in detail its response to each such communication. The security guard also asked for all documents related to how PSS responded to these communications.

PSS objected to Kabir's interrogatory on the ground that it is burdensome, oppressive, and overboard, among other things.

Manglona conducted the hearing on the motion on Wednesday

In granting Kabir's motion, Manglona ruled that the interrogatory is not overbroad because it limits the subject matter to communications related to Barcinas' misconduct during his employment at PSS, information that is neither irrelevant nor trivial.

"The court finds that the burden of answering such a request does not outweigh the possible benefit gained," Manglona said.

With respect to information outside of Barcinas' personnel file, Manglona said the temporal scope of discovery of four years before Kabir's employment up to a year after his termination is reasonable and not overly burdensome.

On the privacy issue, the judge determined that the requested information of any allegation of sexual harassment or inappropriate conduct is relevant for discovery purposes, and that an *in camera* review of the documents is unnecessary.

A proceeding is *in camera* when a hearing is held before a judge in his or her private chamber or when the public is excluded from the courtroom.

Man in domestic violence gets 72-hour sentence

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has imposed a 72-hour prison term on a man accused of choking and throwing a plastic chair at his ex-wife.

Kwi Dong Woo, 54, pleaded guilty to two counts of disturbing the peace as part of a plea deal.

Wiseman sentenced Woo on Wednesday to six months in prison, all suspended except for 72 hours, with credit for the seven days he has already served in jail.

Woo will be on probation for a year and required to pay a $500 fine, $25 in court assessment fee plus a probation fee. He is barred from drinking alcoholic beverages while on probation.

According to the plea agreement, Woo became angry with his ex-wife on April 12, 2012, on Saipan, and started yelling, cursing, and throwing things, including a stuffed animal and a chair that missed the victim but broke a window.

Woo's actions scared his ex-wife and a neighbor.

A police detective stated in her report that Woo and the victim had an argument at her residence in Garapan. Woo allegedly choked the victim and threw a plastic chair at her.

The victim took their two children and ran to call the police. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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BLUE

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told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Kairo is one of three delegates from Kiribati now attending the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures' 31st general assembly on Saipan. Kiribati is one of the world's poorest countries.

"Compared to Fiji or American Samoa, we're very far behind. We do not have money to develop our telecommunications infrastructure. Our problem also is that telecom is controlled by the government. I don't think that's going to change in the near future," he said.

Chris Sampson, president of Australian-based Digital Society Foundation, said that engineering and political challenges are the reasons behind the lack of or absence of cable connectivity in most of the so-called "Blue Continent" encompassing the members of APIL.

"It's more of an engineering design challenge [to have cable connection]. Funding is a political challenge," Sampson told APIL members and guests at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan yesterday.

Sampson, an expert on information management, systems and technology, said in an interview after his presentation that obtaining funding requires political or diplomatic skills and knowledge.

For island nations like Palau, negotiating with the United States or with other international bodies for them to provide funding to the island republic, for example, is a diplomatic challenge.

"It's an engineering design challenge to come up with a master plan. But funding is always political. And if we have a master plan in place, then I believe the pathway, the goodwill, the options or funding will emerge," Sampson said, adding that if there's already a master plan, "that will accelerate the pace of change."

Sampson said he was struck by the situation in Kiribati and the likelihood of having a "disadvantaged generation" among island nations.

"The kids there really have effectively no access to the Internet because they don't have cable, they have very limited satellite to share with the telephone connectivity. There is no local digital infrastructure. Those kids are missing the exposure to knowledge, to techniques, to social environment. And I think if they're not brought up with that and when they reach their late teens, it's hard to introduce that technology to the youngsters. And I worry about a disadvantaged generation," he said.

Sampson said all economic activities now and in the future—even retail, and not only tourism—will require people to have skills with computer, using email, using websites, using collaborative technologies.

What can be done?

In his presentation, Sampson said APIL can influence each of their government's priorities to include telecommunications.

He also asked the region's lawmakers to draw the world's attention to the risk islands face.

"Build a regional consensus. Collectively lobby for international funding," Sampson said, as he suggested two resolutions on the matter that APIL can adopt.

Others like Pohnpei and the Marshall Islands have better access to cable; the latter, mainly because of military installations.

"So I think we just need a more comprehensive coverage [on these islands]," Sampson said.

Hawaii, also a member of APIL, "is one of the most connected places on the planet," he said. It is partly because of Hawaii's location, he said, while Hawaii Sen. Glen Wakai interjected, "good leadership."

"The world's biggest economies are on either side of the Pacific Ocean, and they are massive trading partners—Japan on one side and U.S. on the other side. They have been putting cables between them for many years, and on engineering logistics side, they terminate the cable in Hawaii and then have another run heading west to east. So in fact Hawaii has become incredibly well connected," Sampson said.

Guam, according to Sampson, is also a network hub but he believes more work is needed for the Guam community to gain the true benefits of the art of being connected. Guam has military installations.

Sampson, however, believes that the short distance between Guam and Saipan should also in effect make Saipan or the CNMI a hub but this isn't necessarily so.

"I see no reason why Saipan can't also be an international connectivity hub with the best high-speed broadband and you know that this economy really needs more diverse activity. It can't just be about tourism. We need to invest in those youngsters who want to be engineers, who want to be researchers, and other things than tourism service providers," he said.

Wanted: Competition

Sampson suggests telecommunications liberalization and creating competition in the CNMI.

"If you have wholesale capacity then you can give multiple companies access to the wholesale and to the retailers access to that capacity. You need to create some vibrancy and some competition in that space," he said.

This is where APIL or political leaders come in.

"They can really help because they can create a regulatory environment to allow competition, to open up that capacity and to a certain extent it's about getting people to understand this new world," he added.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the CNMI House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, said he supports competition and that is why he looks forward to the newly reconstituted Public Utilities Commission to review GTA TeleGuam's application to obtain a certificate of authority to expand its business to the CNMI.

"Prices of Internet and other telecom services will go down if you have competition, if you have IT&E and GTA in the CNMI, and hopefully others in the future," Torres said.

PUC officially stopped business on Jan. 30 for lack of quorum but recently, the governor swore into office three individuals to serve on PUC. It's not yet known when PUC will be able to formally meet and take up GTA's application.

Sampson was just one of the presenters during the second day of the four-day APIL general assembly.

Others were Gerry Perez, president of Micronesian Cruise Association-Guam, presenting on an emerging regional cruise industry opportunity; Mark Ittel, partner and vice president of ports and maritime division at Bermello, Ajami & Partners Inc.-Florida, on creating a policy framework for a viable cruise industry; CNMI's Mel Catalma, Michael Ogo, and Richard Seman on aquaculture, agriculture and fisheries; Dr. Robert Richmond of the University of Hawaii and Dr. Meg Caldwell of the Center for Ocean Studies, on climate change in the Pacific islands; and Dr. Steven Kuartei, president of the Pacific Island Health Officers Association and Dr. Greg Dever also of PIHOA, on non-communicable diseases and policy changes.

The APIL summit continues today and wraps up tomorrow with a trip to Managaha Island.

EXTEND

From Page 1

"I will not wait for the last minute," Fitial told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

Besides a local workforce that's still not enough to cover the positions currently filled by foreign workers, Fitial said the federal government has been slow in processing most of the Commonwealth-only worker petitions.

"Can you imagine the time it's taking to process CW-1?" Fitial asked.

As of June 5, only about 29 percent or 3,422 of 11,739 foreign workers petitioned for a CW-1 status have been approved by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, based on USCIS data. This means 71 percent more are still waiting for their CW permits.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday the governor did make an official request in February 2010 to U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis and also lobbied rigorously for the extension in several congressional hearings he testified at in Washington, D.C. over the past two years.

"Unfortunately, neither the U.S. DOL nor the U.S. Congress has heeded this request," Demapan said.

A decision on the extension has to be made "no later than 180 days prior to the expiration."

"Gov. Fitial believes that a five-year extension is in fact warranted. The CNMI economy will still need foreign workers who may not necessarily be qualified to convert to an H1B status before the deadline. The bottom line here is that there is still not enough workers from the pool of resident workers to fill all the jobs currently held by foreign workers," the press secretary said.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office, however, has started working on its report to Congress on the impact of uncertainty related to two main issues: the federalization law's requirement to zero out the number of CW permits by end of 2014, and the provision allowing the transition period to extend beyond Dec. 31, 2014.

GAO, the investigative arm of Congress, asked businesses in the CNMI about their sentiments on these two issues and the responses will be made part of the report.

Douglas Brennan, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said yesterday that the Chamber has gone on record with GAO, "stating the SCC strongly recommends another five-year transitional period be initiated as soon as possible."

"Not knowing if the U.S. Secretary of Labor will decide on whether or not an extension of the transition period is warranted has created a great deal of uncertainty within the business community and is affecting not only existing business activity, but potential investment in the CNMI," Brennan said.

The Chamber, the largest business organization in the CNMI with some 150 members, recently polled its membership asking what effects ending any issuance of CW-1 visas for foreign national employees in 2014 would have on their ability to operate their businesses in the CNMI.

"The results were eye-opening and overwhelmingly in favor of an extension by U.S. Labor until 2019 and possibly beyond," said Brennan, also the general manager of Micrel Corp. and secretary of the Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association.

Brennan said Chamber member companies gave specific examples of how that "uncertainty" is affecting their decisions to operate, "but none seems more dramatic than what will happen at the Commonwealth Health Center if an extension period is not granted."

"Over 100 nurses and attendants are needed to maintain current services. Ninety percent of those staffers have applied for CW-1 visas with USCIS. None of those applications have been issued as of today, but more importantly is what will happen to CHC if those CW-1 visas are zeroed out in 2014," he said.

Brennan said the hospital cannot function without a qualified nursing staff and if there are no CW-1 permits past 2014, the hospital would collapse.

"The SCC would like to point out to the federal government that initiated this situation within the CNMI: If the CW-1 visa program ends in 2014, no doubt this will lead to the ruination of not just an economy, but will jeopardize the health, safety and welfare of all CNMI residents," he added.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), who comes from a family of businessmen, reiterated yesterday that the CW-1 permits recently approved by USCIS will expire during the same period next year, which is only a year away from the end of the transition period, yet there are still not enough local workers if and when foreign workers are told to leave the CNMI after 2014.

"We haven't fully developed our local workforce. There are qualified local workers but they are not enough yet. If you're looking at close to 12,000 foreign workers petitioned for CW and that means that's the number still needed by private employers to help run this economy, and you're only looking at a few thousand local workers and high school graduates, then the CNMI would have a big problem if you let these foreign workers go," Yumul said.

He said transitioning to a federal system takes considerable time, and he believes it should be extended for at least five years.

"There's just no way we can run this economy if we zero out the foreign worker population by end of 2014," he added.

U.S. Public Law 110-229, also known as the Consolidated Natural Resources Act, provides for a transition period not to exceed Dec. 31, 2014, wherein all guest workers in the CNMI will be eliminated.

The law also provides that the U.S. Secretary of Labor will assess the CNMI's current and anticipated labor needs of the CNMI and determine whether an extension of up to five years is necessary to ensure an adequate number of workers will be available for businesses in the Commonwealth, Demapan said.

Fitial will be attending the meeting of the National Governors Association in Virginia in July.

Demapan said the NGA has been a tool that governors use to collectively seek federal or congressional assistance on matters relating to state governments.

"Gov. Fitial is likely to discuss this matter with his colleagues in the NGA to see what kind of support the governors can collectively offer on behalf of the CNMI's plea for a simple amendment solely intended to ensure that the Commonwealth's economy does not get crippled and eventually destroyed," he said.

Founded in 1908, the NGA has as members the governors of the 50 states, three territories, and two commonwealths.

RESORT

From Page 1

Beach Road in Susupe and boasts of 224 standard and tower rooms featuring spanking new fixtures, carpeting, newly painted walls, and breathtaking ocean views. The resort is complemented with a whole gamut of amenities including the marine-inspired interior of Nami Lounge (once the Southern Cross), which has a state-of-the-art sound system, two swimming pools, an impressive chapel, Barefoot Beach Bar & BBQ, and the Isla Café, which offers indoor and outdoor dining options for hotel guests.

Derived from a word that means "free spirit," Kanoa Resort Saipan imparts an affable façade where hotel guests can enjoy lovely accommodations while exploring what the island has to offer, according to resident manager Mark Ratliff.

Company executives led Thursday's grand opening ceremony that was also attended by government officials led by Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and key leaders and executives from the island's tourism industry.

Inos, in his remarks, said the grand opening of Kanoa Resort Saipan ushers a spirit that's as "grand" as when the original structure opened its doors to the Commonwealth in 1977 and brought in hundreds of thousands of tourists.

"As we celebrate the grand opening of the Kanoa Resort, may more progress, prosperity, and the creation of thousands of more memories enter your halls and doors," he added.

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan said in an interview that the investment in the hotel's rebranding and facelift at a time when the economy is in recession is a testament to the company's confidence in the islands.

"We're a local company and we've been on island for 30 years and in the region for 40 years. This is a very special year as we're celebrating our 40th anniversary and the Tan family is pleased to continue investing and reinvesting in the CNMI," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

He underscored the need to constantly upgrade hotel properties and facilities and encouraged other businesses in the hospitality industry to make use of the downtime to do so as the Northern Marianas competes with other destinations.

"It is important that every hotel property here will work together and maintain the standard that is required for our guests in order to be competitive as a destination," said Tan.

Managing director Perry Tenorio of the Marianas Visitors Authority congratulated Tan Holdings on the launching of Kanoa Resort Saipan and noted that the project aligns with the agency's own efforts to boost the CNMI's tourism industry.

"MVA extends its appreciation to Tan Holdings for the opening of the Kanoa Hotel which is just another indication of Tan Holdings' commitment to the region. I look around and it's beautiful. With the rebranding of this product, we hope that the guests' level of experience will continue to increase," he said.

Work on airport runway rehab temporarily stopped

» CPA pushes back completion date to May 2013

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority temporarily stopped work at the main runway of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport while it awaits approval of its latest funding request for the project.

Acting CPA executive director Derek Sasamoto confirmed the work stoppage with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, saying they have yet to get a response from the Federal Aviation Administration about the latest change order for the multi-million project.

He declined to cite the specific amount CPA is asking for under the change order, which is the sixth for the project.

Not taking into account the latest funding request, the rehabilitation of the main runway—called Runway 7/25—has already cost $21 million, fully funded by the FAA under the federal agency's airport improvement project program. Of this amount, about $7.8 million was due to several change orders and supplemental agreements.

It has been over 25 years since the airport's main runway was first built.

The contractor for the new project is Guam Pacific Power Corporation Inc.

Based on CPA records, construction work was temporarily stopped since March this year following discovery of some problems that warrant a new design. CPA discovered a 4-inch deep crack in the middle of the runway. It has also been found that the contractor has been following an obsolete design that is about 6 years old.

CPA confirmed yesterday that with the latest change order, submitted last week, the full completion of the project is expected to occur in May 2013, assuming everything works fine with FAA.

The Saipan runway project was initiated in 2009 and includes, among others, milling of the existing runway, taxiway, blast pad, and shoulder pavements, asphalt concrete overlay, and other works.

The original target completion was in October 2011 but this was pushed back to February 2012 and then again to June 2012. CPA confirmed that the delay in the full completion of the project is mainly because of these change orders.

Expert sees stability, growth of tourism industry in Asia

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Despite the ongoing challenges facing the Commonwealth, the islands' tourism industry faces a bright future ahead, according to a marketing expert.

Jim Beighley, DFS Group senior vice president for strategy and market development, is convinced that the CNMI is still in the right business—the tourism industry.

Speaking during Wednesday's membership meeting of the Marianas Visitors Authority, Beighley described tourism in any part of the world as a great business that promises both stability and profitability.

"Tourism is one of the fastest growing industries. Just in every part of the world, growth of tourism and travel is outpacing the growth of normal economy. I think if you are in tourism and you're in Asia, you're in the right business," he told participants gathered at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Beighley said that Asian tourists are estimated at 250 million every year. This number is projected to double in eight years—about 450 million tourists by 2020. When this happens, Beighley predicts that there will not be enough hotel rooms and airline seats in the market to handle the growing capacity of travelers in Asia. The signals the need for Asian destinations to expand and grow to meet the demands of these tourists.

By 2020, Beighley said, Asia will be the second largest tourism market in the world next to Europe.

He described as phenomenal the rise of the middle class in Asia that will dictate the expected growth in tourism, which will spell economic recovery and success.

The middle class, he said, is defined as people who have steady jobs, can provide educational opportunities for their children, have stable retirement, and have access to healthcare.

Between now and 2020, Beighley predicts that between 80 million and 100 million households in Indonesia will become middle class, while 30 million to 40 million households will become middle class in Vietnam. In China, 300 million to 400 million households are expected to be in the same classification.

When a household becomes middle class, Beighley said the ability to travel overseas is something they can do. This, he added, is new to Asia.

World wants Chinese travelers

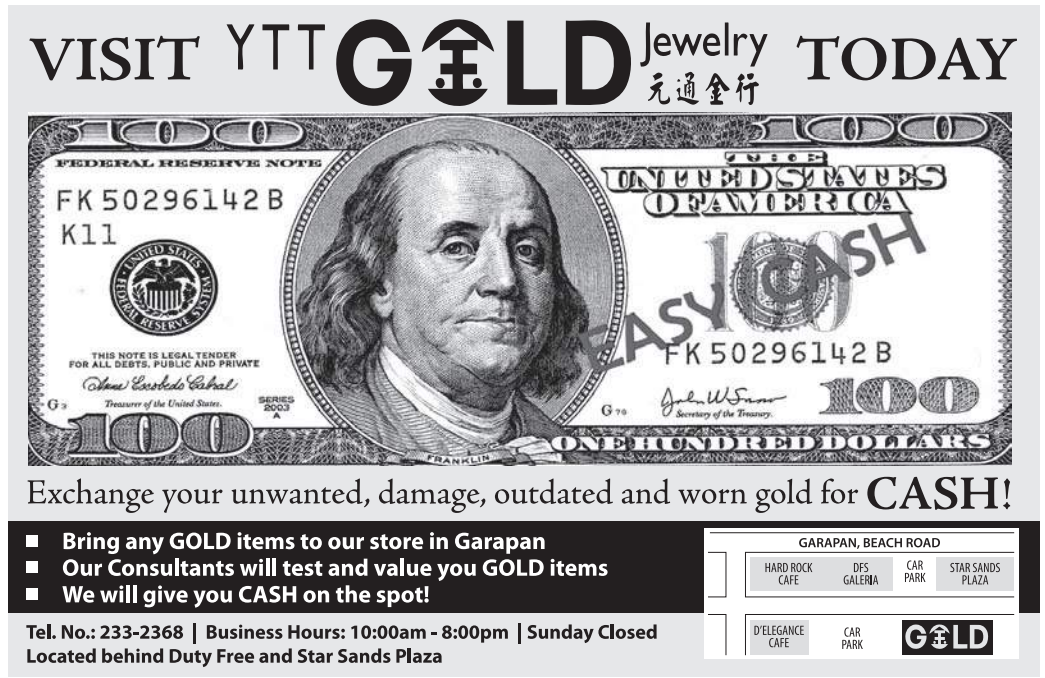
According to Beighley, Chinese travelers are now the target of tourism industries across the globe. He predicted that future destinations will be greatly shaped for Chinese tourists—hotels, infrastructure, and marketing.

However, because the CNMI is a pioneer in the China market, Beighley sees this as a great advantage because the Commonwealth has already advanced knowledge of this market and has been dealing with these consumers for quite a long time now.

Another good news in the horizon, Beighley said, is the increasing stability of the Japan market, which was never seen in the last three years. He cited the strength of the yen against the dollar as an example of the increasing stability of the market.

The CNMI has four airlines flying to the islands from various destinations. With the addition of Saipan Air on July 1, this will go up to five.

To realize the promise of the tourism industry, the CNMI has to focus on filling empty air seats, Beighley said.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APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM HEAD RETIRES

NMC says apprenticeship program continues at full speed

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The head of the Northern Marianas College apprenticeship program, Geri Willis, retired last week but her departure, according to the college, will not hamper the operation of the program.

Acting NMC president David Attao assured *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the program is continuing at full speed.

Willis handled the college apprenticeship program for about five months since January.

Willis said she has been working for many years and described her decision to retire now as a good time to go. She plans to enjoy her retirement while staying on island.

"I am sure whoever they decide to put in there will do a great job," she said when asked about the possible impact of her exit on the program.

Willis

Willis said the program—now fully certified by the U.S. Department of Labor—has strong ties with private businesses, ensuring its continued success. She expressed her willingness to help NMC with the program, albeit under an independent contract, if necessary.

Attao emphasized that NMC is committed to the success of the U.S. Apprenticeship Program. He belied speculations that the program will be in limbo due to Willis' departure.

"The U.S. Apprenticeship Program is not in limbo and it is not at a standstill. In fact, key staff members and other resources of the college have already been identified to ensure that this program continues to move forward at full speed," he said.

According to Attao, many college employees were trained on how to direct activities related to the Apprenticeship Program, including working with businesses to identify workforce needs and coordinating related training courses.

He noted that the college has already invested more than $200,000 to launch the program and has asked for $1.3 million of the contract workers' fees that were paid to the CNMI government to sustain the program at NMC.

"We've expended significant resources to lay the groundwork for the U.S. Apprenticeship Program at NMC, and its success continues to be a high priority for the institution," Attao added.

Apprenticeship is immediate employment, including wages, for U.S. citizens or those with permanent residency status. Students obtain their work experience on-the-job and related training through NMC.

With approximately 1,000 apprenticeship occupations available, NMC will be able to place an apprentice where skilled workers are most needed. The funding from contract worker fees will allow over 600 apprentices to be employed and receive training in the first year and over 900 by the second year.

Fund optimistic on release of pensions, benefits on June 30

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund yesterday expressed optimism that its members' pensions and benefits would be released this month after learning that no one opposed its motion in bankruptcy court.

The Fund notified its beneficiaries—retirees, survivors, and disability annuitants—yesterday that it has applied with the bankruptcy court to continue paying benefits at 100 percent, including payment of 50 percent of the health insurance premiums of enrolled beneficiaries.

This application, it said, was necessary because bankruptcy judge Robert Faris issued on June 13 a memorandum of decisions on motions to dismiss the Fund bankruptcy case in which the judge delayed dismissing the case. The memorandum specifically stated that "the order dismissing the case will be entered after orders on the applications [for professional fees] and motions [opposing the payments] are entered and all approved compensation, reimbursements, and administrative expenses are paid."

The Fund explained that when the bankruptcy petition was filed, enough funds for payment of benefits through June 15 was set aside in a bankruptcy remote entity. Those funds have been substantially paid out to beneficiaries.

The Fund's application to continue paying benefits will be heard on Tuesday, June 26, 2012, at 9:30am at the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.

"Neither the creditors' committee nor the bankruptcy trustee have opposed the application, and the Fund sees no other reason why Judge Faris would not grant the application. If the application is granted promptly, the Fund should be able to meet the June 30th paydate for benefits," the Fund stated in its notice.

The Fund also clarified that the professionals that are eligible to submit bills to the bankruptcy court for review and approval or modification and eventual payment from the Fund are the Fund's bankruptcy counsel Brown Rudnick, LLP and its local counsel, the Law Office of Braddock J. Huesman, LLC, and the Creditors' Committee Counsel (Gelber, Gelber & Ingersoll) and its local counsel Thompson Law Office, LLC.

Additionally, the Fund said, the bankruptcy trustee is entitled to statutory fees for services.

Republican Party
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for the
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Join us for lunch
at Civic Center
on Sunday, June 24,
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Paid for by the Republican Party of the NMI Association.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that IT&E will conduct network maintenance on Tuesday, June 26 between 12:01am to 5:00am. While IT&E does not anticipate any downtime, Prepaid, SMS and Voicemail service in the CNMI and Guam will be affected and may be temporarily interrupted during the maintenance period. Tuesday morning's maintenance window is part of IT&E's network upgrade that will provide a more reliable service to the CNMI and Guam.

Please call 682-4483 for more information.

IT&E
Life in Motion

Kagman to finally get its own community health center

WASHINGTON, D.C.— CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan announced yesterday that the long-awaited Kagman Community Health Center has been awarded $608,333 in start-up funds. The Northern Marianas has applied five times for a grant for a facility in Kagman, always without success, and remains the only U.S. jurisdiction without a community health center. But yesterday's notice of award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services means that the estimated 16,000 people in the Kagman area will be able to get primary and preventive health care right in their own community.

"This is great news," said Sablan. "So many people have worked for so long to have the Kagman Community Health Center approved for federal funding. And now that work has paid off."

Community health center grants are competitive and the Kagman application has never scored enough points to get funded. But scores have gotten better, especially after Sablan met with HHS officials in 2009 to support an $80,000 planning grant to assist Kagman and the CNMI Department of Public Health in putting together the complex application.

"Last year's application actually scored high enough to win a grant," Sablan explained. "But overall funding was cut, so even with a high score Kagman did not get any money."

Additional funding became available earlier this year, however. So Sablan immediately asked Associate Administrator James Macrae of the Health Resources and Services Administration at HHS to allow the high-scoring Kagman application to be reconsidered without the need for a sixth new application.

HHS agreed and gave Kagman the $608,333 grant yesterday.

Now that Kagman has finally been awarded what is called a "New Access Point" grant, funding should continue year after year. The health center will not have to compete for funds, but only submit an annual budget renewal application. As long as the center keeps up with program requirements and meets the goals set out in the original application funding should remain available.

The Kagman Health Center will focus on prenatal, basic dental, and other primary and preventive care. Services can be expanded, however, with supplemental grants to add to the base funding amount Kagman has now been awarded.

According to the project plan submitted to Health and Human Services, the Center is envisioned to be 4,200 square feet with five exam rooms. Staffing is projected to eventually include three midlevel providers, four nurses, one case manager/outreach worker, one laboratory technician, a medical director, a chief financial officer, and an executive director.

"Clearly [yesterday's] grant award, though a long time in arriving, is just the beginning of many more years of building and development," Sablan said. "But even having access to the most basic care in Kagman will be so welcome.

"Many Kagman residents do not own a car or, if they do, can barely afford gas. There is no public transportation. And the Commonwealth Health Center is on the other side of Saipan, an expensive taxi ride away. Now health care will be available in the heart of Kagman."

Lack of access to health care is believed to be a significant reason why the Kagman area has high rates of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and childhood asthma. Improved access is expected to have a positive effect on these problems and on low birth weights, low rates of immunization, and high rates of teen pregnancy.

Another benefit of the New Access Point grant and designation as a federally qualified health center is an enhanced reimbursement rate for Medicare, eligibility to purchase drugs at reduced prices, and access to primary health care professionals working under the auspices of the National Health Service Corps.

The Kagman facility is also expected to relieve pressure on the Commonwealth Health Center. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free films every Friday at the park

The American Memorial Park presents family friendly films twice a day for free every Friday, at 2pm and 6pm in the Visitors Center auditorium.

The premier film today, June 22, will be *Brother Bear.*

The film features for the following Fridays are:

- June 29: How To Train Your Dragon (2pm)
- July 6: Ratatouille (2pm)
- July 13: Up (2pm and 6pm)
- July 20: Wall-E (2pm and 6pm)
- July 27: Meet The Robinsons (2pm and 6pm)
- Aug. 3: Ice Age (2pm)
- Aug. 10: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs (2pm and 6pm)
- Aug. 17: Rio (2pm and 6pm)

On July 6 and Aug. 3, the regularly scheduled First Friday Films at 6:30pm will continue. ***(AMP)***

Draft EIS community outreach schedule

The U.S. Air Force's Draft EIS pre-hearing community outreach sessions and public information hearings schedule is as follows:

- Koblerville pre-hearing community outreach

Saturday, June 23, 2012, 4pm-6pm, Saipan Southern High School

- Dandan pre-hearing community outreach

Sunday, June 24, 2012, 4pm-6pm, Dandan Elementary School

- Public hearing, Saipan

Monday, June 25, 2012, 5pm-8pm, Multi-Purpose Center

- Public hearing, Tinian

Tuesday, June 26, 2012 5pm-8pm, Tinian Elementary School

- Public information meeting, Rota

Wednesday, June 27, 2012, 4pm-5:30pm, Rota Mayor's Office

Soil and water conservation district meeting on July 10

The Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District will hold its monthly meeting on July 10, 2012, at 10am at the Natural Resources Conservation Service office on Beach Road, Garapan. For more information, contact Diane Gabaldon at 256-3320. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of 2002 reunion Dinner

The Marianas High School Class of 2002 will have a reunion dinner banquet on Saturday, June 23, 2012, from 6pm to 10pm at Pacific Islands Club. Color attire is black, red, or white. Payments received at the door on the day of the event will be $26 per person. RSVP is required For more information, contact 483-0805. ***(PR)***

Free business workshops

The CNMI Small Business Development Center, in partnership with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, presents the following free workshops:

- How to start a business: June 22, 2012
- How to write a business plan: June 29, 2012
- How to read your financial statements: July 6, 2012
- How to market your business: July 13, 2012

The workshops will be held at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office on the first floor of the Familia Building in Garapan. All workshops will be from 9am to 11am. Register online at http://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com/. Deadline for pre-registration is 12pm, one day before the workshop. For more information contact Linda at 664-3018 or linda@pacificsbdc.com. ***(PR)***

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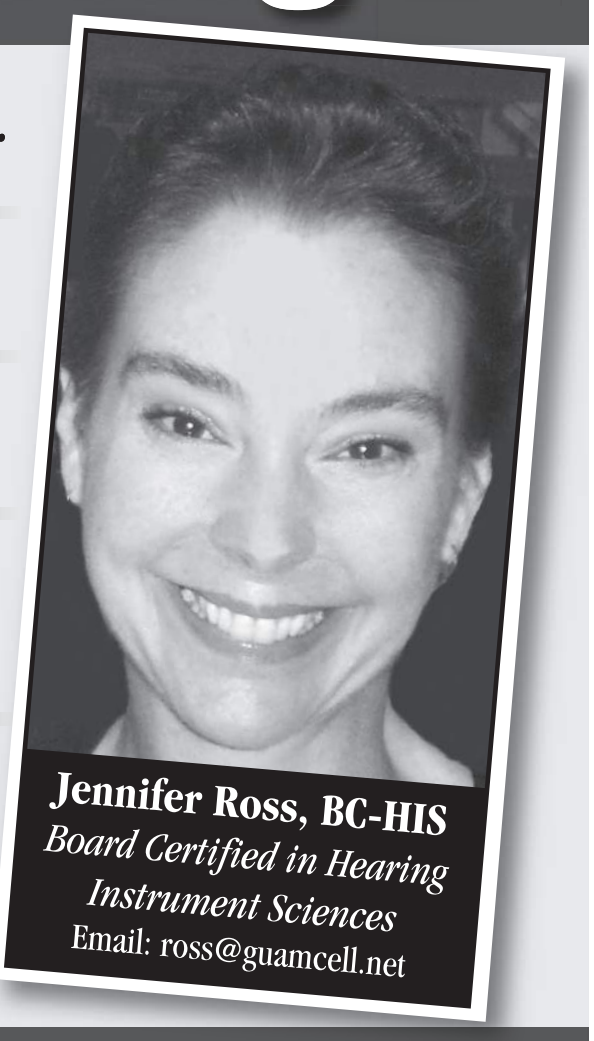

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Creditors committee backs continued payment to beneficiaries

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of the NMI Retirement Fund does not object to the Fund's request that it be allowed to continue paying benefits to beneficiaries at the 100 percent level while it awaits the court's entry of the dismissal of the Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition.

The Hawaii-based committee's counsel, Don Jeffrey Gelber, said what the committee understands about the Fund's proposal is that the Fund is authorized to pay retirees and other Fund beneficiaries in the same manner that the Fund made payments before the bankruptcy filing and for the first two months of the bankruptcy proceeding.

Gelber filed yesterday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI Bankruptcy Division the committee's response to the Fund's proposal for continued payment.

The lawyer said the committee recognizes that, if the Fund does not recover sufficient funds to pay all current and future Fund beneficiaries, full payments to current beneficiaries may be prejudicial to those "at the back of the line" (i.e., future retirees or other future Fund beneficiaries).

Gelber said the committee does not object to the relief requested by the Fund because it will be least disruptive to the current beneficiaries who depend on continued payments for food, shelter, medical, and other living expenses.

Gelber said the continued full payment to beneficiaries at the pre-bankruptcy level is consistent with the Fund's pre-bankruptcy and post-bankruptcy conduct and is consistent with the payments that would have been made had the bankruptcy proceeding not been filed.

Gelber said the continued payments at the pre-bankruptcy level is consistent with the bankruptcy court's determination that the Fund was not eligible to file for Chapter 11 protection and the court's decision that the proceeding will be dismissed following the resolution of some administrative matters.

The lawyer said the committee understands that the proposed payments will only be made for a short period of time before the court's dismissal order is entered.

The Fund's proposal for continued payment will be heard on June 26 at 9:30am.

In the Fund's request, Fund counsel Jeremy B. Coffey cited that prior to the filing date of the Chapter 11 petition (April 17, 2012), the Fund established a subsidiary, Pension Holdings Corp., for the purpose of ensuring the continued payment of benefits, in full, for up to the first two months of the case.

With the June 2012 payment, Pension Holdings Corp. has now exhausted its funding and is no longer able to satisfy the Fund's semi-monthly payment obligations, Coffey said.

The next payment schedule is on or before July 1, 2012.

Coffey explained that if the Fund is unable to resume benefit payments until after the order of dismissal is entered, it would cause undue hardship on Fund members who rely on benefit payments to meet basic food, shelter, clothing, and medical needs.

"Through this proposal, the [Fund] seeks limited authority to resume benefit payments, beginning with the July 1, 2012, payment, until such time as the order dismissing this case is entered," the lawyer said.

HAWAII VISITOR CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas College Board of Regents chair Juan T. Lizama, third from right, acting Northern Marianas College president Dave Attao, fourth from right, and others representing the NMC community pose with Hawaii Sen. Glenn Wakai, sixth from left. Wakai visited NMC to tour the campus and view the furniture, classroom equipment, and supplies that were donated through Reach Out Pacific.

WEEKEND TOURNAMENT

Team Rocball Ninjas, the winners of the 2012 Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Volleyball Tournament last Sunday, June 17, have their picture taken with tournament organizers and volunteers. CNMI Juvenile Justice Task Force collaborated with Natibu Sports Association in organizing the youth volleyballt ournament.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2 suspected 'ice' dealers arrested

Police arrested Wednesday night two men for allegedly selling crystal methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan.

Police served the arrest warrant on George Manglona and Juan D. Tydingco for trafficking of a controlled substance and illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho retained yesterday the $30,000 cash bail the court earlier imposed on the two.

Camacho learned that the 32-year-old Manglona also has a bench warrant in a probation revocation matter. The judge ordered Manglona to be detained until the revocation matter is resolved.

Former chief prosecutor Michael Ernest appeared as counsel for Manglona.

Members of the Drug Enforcement Task Force and Criminal Investigation Bureau allegedly used a "cooperating source" to buy $100 worth of "ice" each from Manglona and Tydingco in separate operations on June 14, 2012.

The detectives allegedly managed to buy three gross grams of "ice" from Manglona and two gross grams of "ice" from Tydingco.

The transaction with Manglona allegedly happened at a parking lot of a poker arcade in San Vicente, while Tydingco's occurred at a poker arcade in Sadog Tasi.

Tydingco was among four suspected "ice" dealers arrested by detectives on Saipan in separate incidents on July 15 and 16, 2010. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jun. 22, 1999

DOLI sues illegal recruiter

The Department of Labor and Immigration yesterday filed a civil action against a job recruiter who allegedly scammed 16 Bangladeshi workers into non-existing jobs on Saipan. DOLI filed the lawsuit against Dina T. Gonzalez of RJ Ent. who has a standing department order to pay her recruits more than $53,000 in unpaid wages, civil penalties, fines and other damages. The department filed the civil suit in the Superior Court, seeking enforcement of DOLI'S administrative order issued on March 14, 1996 by hearing officer Herbert Soll.

People must pressure govt to solve garbage problem

With proper planning and strong political will, the Northern Marianas will be able to solve its solid waste problem that is threatening to destroy its pristine environment and the island's tourism economy. According to Norman Lovelace, manager for Pacific Insular Area Program of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the local people must pressure political leaders to force them to take concrete steps in saving the environment. "There has to be a plan but there must also be political action to implement it. You may have the best ideas in the world but if it is just on paper, it would not do anybody any good," said Lovelace.

Jun. 22, 2000

NMIRF asks Teno to ax bill

Northern Marianas Retirement Fund Administrator Juan S. Torres has asked Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's not to sign a proposed measure that will provide one year vested service credit in the NMIRF for every two years of service on CNMI boards, commissions and municipal councils. In a letter to the governor, Mr. Torres said Senate Bill 12-40 failed to identify adequate source of funding to pay for the improvement in pension benefits. The bill is now back in the Senate for action on the House amendment to the proposed measure. The bill does not specify how the annuity level will be determined knowing that, by law, members of the boards or commissions are not compensated. Secondly, there is no provision that identifies any funding source to pay for the proposed improvement in benefits.

BOE exceeds travel budget

Members of the State Board of Education yesterday agreed to expedite efforts at reviewing its current travel plan policies after it was ascertained that the board exceeded its $8,000 travel budget travel budget. The board roughly overspent over $14,000 for official off-island meetings and conferences, it was disclosed. But the amount, which came BOE's own accounts, has not affected Public School System allotments, according to PSS.

Jun. 22, 2004

Conference on coastal protection begins

Scores of environmental officials and representatives from Pacific islands and federal agencies yesterday convened at the Pacific Islands Club to develop a regional strategy to address the degradation of coral reef ecosystems, fisheries and marine water quality. Participating federal agencies include the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Marina A. Picolish, PhD., of the Hawaii-based MAPping Change, LLC, the consulting firm that designed the meeting's agenda, said the conference aims to develop a regional strategy that would strengthen the voice of Pacific and Carribean islands at the federal government, especially in procuring financial support to address environmental concerns.

'Bill banning same-sex marriage unconstitutional'

The Attorney General's Office raised constitutional issues on the proposed same-sex marriage initiative, noting that the measure would impede several constitutional rights under Commonwealth law. Acting attorney general Clyde Lemons said the issue of proposed House Legislative Initiative 14-3 embraces more than one article of the CNMI Constitution and does not merely amend Article 2 directly. Lemons stressed that the measure also aims to amend rights allowed under Article I by denying equal protection of the law to certain persons in the area of marriage, prevent the Legislature from enacting laws that would outlaw discrimination based on sex in the area of marriage and by creating a constitutional public policy in favor of sex-based classifications in the area of marriage.

Tasi Watch Rangers, volunteers get enforcement training

On Friday, June 15, the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance's Tasi Watch Rangers and volunteers completed their first community enforcement workshop at the new MINA office in Gualo Rai.

The purpose of MINA's community enforcement workshop is to improve the Tasi Watch Rangers' and volunteers' capacity in managing our near shore marine resources and how MINA can best assist government agencies such as Division of Environmental Quality, Coastal Resource Management Office, and the Division of Fish and Wildlife in improving and expanding enforcement efforts along the Commonwealth's coastal areas.

Friday's workshop was focused on local applicable laws and regulations that protect the environment in both marine and terrestrial. Presenters of the workshop were CNMI government lawyers Kate Fuller and Teresita Sablan. The workshop was focused on littering, open burning, earth moving, and other enforcement issues such as community members reporting violations.

Jim Hinds, an attendee, says that the training was professional. "I learned basically that we have to be really nice and gentle when we go there to talk to people or violators." Hinds said that this training would be useful in the future because it motivated him to help keep the island cleaner.

"This workshop taught me how to keep it safe and clean," said Anthony Pua, a MINA Tasi Watch Ranger.

MINA is a nonprofit organization that was formed by people whose dedication for the environment felt the need to promote protection and restoration of the islands' natural resources. Tasi Watch is a collaborative effort between the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, DEQ, CRM, DFW, and other government agencies and private organizations by providing the Laolao Bay communities the opportunity to manage its near shore marine resources.

For more information, contact MINA at 233-7333 or visit their website at www.minapacific.org. ***(MINA)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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Farmers, food stamps, feds and futility

By DAN AKST
Newsday

Daniel Akst is a columnist for Newsday *and a member of the newspaper's editorial board.*

Some things in life never change. For one, Uncle Sam will always waste billions on subsidies to farmers.

A renewal of the nation's main farm and food-aid bill is making its way through Congress, reminding us yet again (as if we needed a reminder!) of what's wrong with the way things work in Washington.

But first let me get the ritual denunciations out of the way. Like its predecessors over the years, this new farm bill offers juicy giveaways to agribusiness under the guise of helping the couple with the pitchfork in the famous Grant Wood painting. To be sure, three-quarters of the bill's trillion dollar cost over the next decade would be for nutrition programs (mainly food stamps). But this aid for the needy is yoked to $140 billion in agricultural subsidies.

There's a lot of self-congratulation going on in Congress right now because the new Senate farm bill, unlike the law currently in place, eliminates $5 billion a year in fixed annual subsidies—essentially, free cash—for farmers.

But the bill does contain costly new versions of crop insurance that will transfer more of the risk of farming onto the backs of taxpayers, whose sacroiliacs are already pretty sore from bearing the risks of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the too-big-to-fail banks.

We'll get a wasteful farm bill no matter how much policy wonks and pundits jump up and down. The question is whether we can learn anything from the persistence of this ridiculous program.

I think we can. Federal aid to agriculture got going in a big way during the Great Depression, when many farmers, like the Joads in "The Grapes of Wrath," were desperate. But these policies have endured long past the conditions they were meant to remedy.

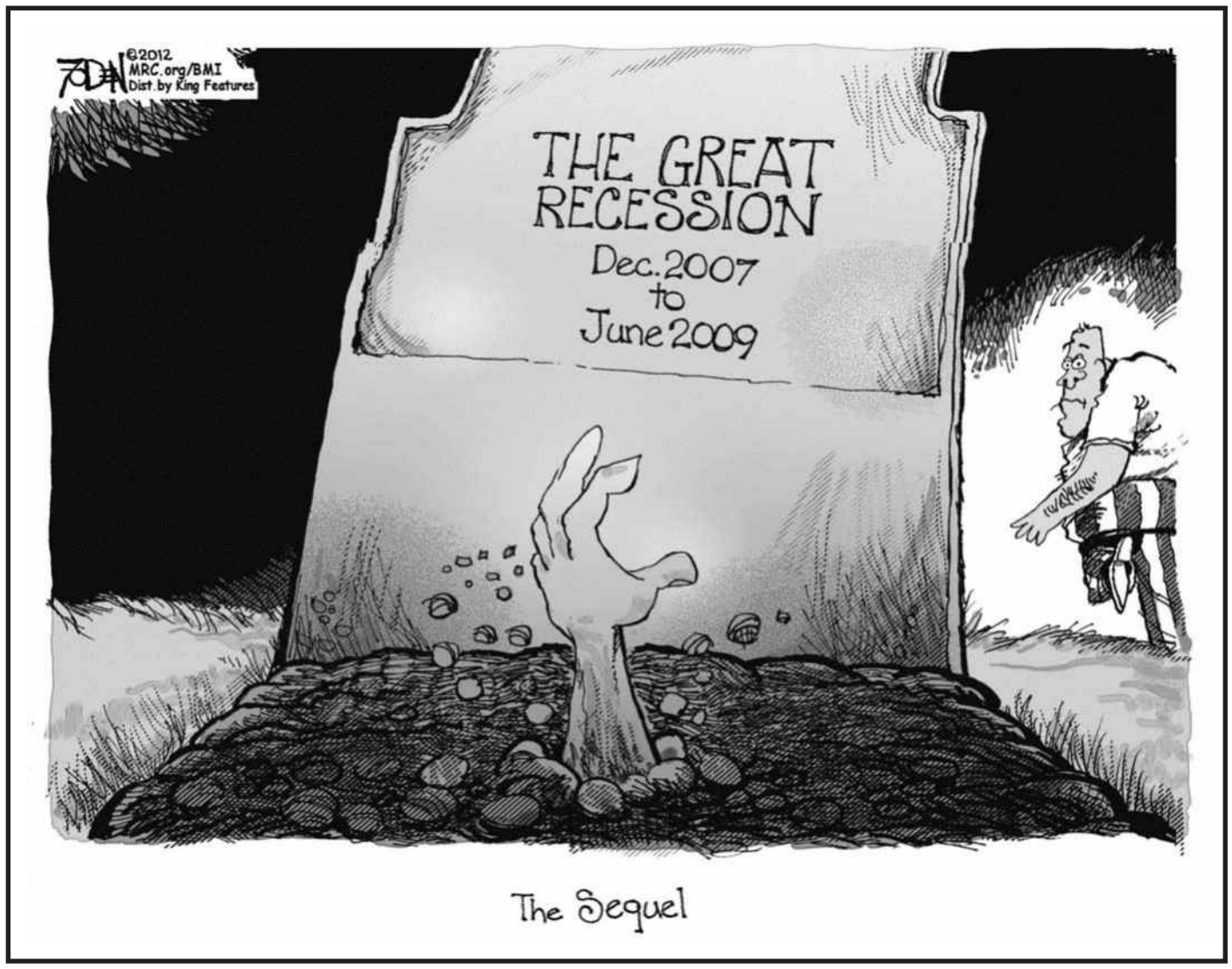
Before long the land was covered in a crazy-quilt of farm programs, many of them contradictory. Over the years laws and tax dollars have been used to prop up the price of healthy items like milk and fruit, which should be more affordable, and to subsidize the production of a lethal weed (tobacco). Farmers have been discouraged from planting high-water crops in wet places, and encouraged to plant them in dry ones. Each market intervention seemed to require offsetting new ones, as with a patient who takes medication to counteract the effects of other medications.

And where, you might ask, is the outcry in Congress? Conservatives should be complaining of agricultural socialism. Liberals should condemn corporate welfare cloaked in denim overalls. Both sides would be right.

Alas, such cries are faint because by now, everyone takes farm subsidies for granted. Every state, including the ones mainly full of soybeans, has two senators. Iowa is an important presidential primary venue. And democracy is about compromise. The price of food stamps—which themselves increase the demand for food—has been agricultural subsidies.

There is a cautionary tale in all this. Once initiated, special-interest government programs are hard to get rid of, even when they've outlived their usefulness. They build up organized constituencies, and these motivated groups lobby all too effectively. Beneficiaries also propagate sentimental myths (the family farmer, our cherished agrarian heritage) about the programs they so passionately defend.

See FARMERS on Page 13



Dragon Boat Festival

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

The *duanwu* (double five: fifth day of the fifth month of the lunar calendar), an ancient festival revived in China 2008, is now one of the statutory holidays of the country.

It follows a week after the western Father's Day celebration this year. The Duanwu is a masculine celebration, falling on the strongest lunar presence in the longest day of the year (summer solstice) in the northern hemisphere, and the sun *(yang)* represents the male energy in life, like the dragon *(long),* as the winter solstice, the longest night of the year represent the apex of the female life energy.

We wrote recently of the *Jiaolong* (sea dragon), the submersible that will attempt a dive down Challenger Deep of the Marianas Trench this month. We will not be surprised if the attempt is made today! (The lady astronaut we wrote about last week in *Tiangong* the Skylab is now in orbit.)

We will skip the various stories tracing the origin of the festival. Suffice to say that like their youthful counterparts in the West who do not hesitate to find any occasion to party, Eastern cultures tend to get the male to stretch their muscles in sleek dragon boat races. Then they drown their enthusiasm in a liberal dosage of spirits with the arsenic-laced *realgar* wine. This carcinogenic ingredient is used to ward off evil spirits in traditional Chinese medicine.

Arsenic provides the colorful fireworks of Chinese pyrotechnics; a *realgar* wine residue is used to paint colorful faces during the festival. Taking arsenic represents the risk-taking but daring aspect of male machismo. It is said to protect the body from disease for the rest of the year, and is tested in the skill of standing an egg on its end at mid-day to ensure good luck the rest of the year!

Prior to reinstatement five years ago, the holiday was observed in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Bangkok, Japan, the Koreas, and other Sino-influenced Asian cultures.

The festival also commemorates the rescue attempts on the patriotic poet Chu Yuan who opted to drown himself rather than be subject to the demands of the Qin rule. Rice was thrown into the river where the poet committed suicide so that the fish will feed on the rice rather than on the hero's flesh. Wrapped glutinous *tzungtzu* and dumplings are also thrown into the river to accompany the hero to the afterlife. They are both common table staple during the celebration.

We trade in celebrative metaphors. To latch on to the adventurous impulse to plumb the depth of awe by the awed in awesome style underlies to us the tenacity of this festival in spite of the dangers involved.

We do note that pure MDMA of the phenethylamine and amphetamine classes of drugs, inducer of euphoria, not unlike the "out-of-body" experience from the '60s LSD, has been pronounced safe in its pure form (not the adulterated street sold Ecstasy aka XTC) by no less than the health officer of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Used in psychotherapy, it facilitates radical self-examination and drastically reduces fear. Small doses are used to enhance meditation "to generate the divine within" (entheogen) by some Buddhist monks.

We do not traffic in drugs, nor do we recommend its use. The organic variety of getting high is fine enough for us. And we do not mean peyote or mescaline, nicotine or alcohol. (OK, we concede the caffeine).

Saipan's corruption involving public coffers is attributed to many kinds of addiction. In our decade of work in the Commonwealth, we know that the use of methamphetamine, commonly known as "ice," is on the high side. A PSS colleague once opined that of her acquaintances in public offices, she would tag half of them as occasional meth users!

Dragon boat festival imbibers of the arsenic-laced *realgar* wine will be excused for their disregard of toxicity in their reckless continuation of a traditional drink. Perhaps, like immunization, a dosage of the object of prevention inures the body of deleterious effects.

We are in the Year of the Dragon on the Sino calendar. Already, maternity wards of hospitals are experiencing a radical increase in birth deliveries. Those who strongly follow the dictates of *Sheng Xiao* horoscope of this mighty animal plot their family planning on this season's auspicious 12 lunar turns. Of the 12 animals in the zodiac, the dragon is the only imaginary animal, and thus subject to the highest hype of the imagination. Might is the central character of the make-believe but well-revered dragon. Well wishing recipients of "may your tribe multiply" do not take this endorsement lightly!

It is the 23rd of June and unless one lives in close proximity to *duanwu* celebrants, the day hardly holds any significance. Given that a fifth of the world's population hold this as a special holiday, we might remember that the dragon is balanced by the grace of the peacock, and in the yin-yang lies the wholeness. Male and female, might and grace, duty and responsibility. Reality hangs in the balance.

In wholeness, we thrive. The ancients did, too, save they called it "holy"!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A big game. A big player.

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

The Commonwealth's little square of the strategic chessboard has received a lot of paint and polish lately. Amidst the glitter and glare it's a good time to remind ourselves about a nearby player that we don't talk about very often. This player is the world's largest nation, the world's most prolific oil producer, and it has the world's largest stash of nuclear warheads.

OK, you've guessed it by now: Russia. It spans nine time zones, ranging from Alaska's doorstep to Europe's environs. China has more people, and the U.S. has more money, but Russia is not out of the game

I know that emotions run hot on Saipan, so I'll gently remind folks that I'm not on the emoting express. I'm not trying to stir the pot, I'm not trying to add to your list of daily worries, and I'm not labeling anybody a friend or foe. I'm just taking a glance at a major, if somewhat dormant, player in the Big Game out here. So there's no grand theory to sell, just a few observations to keep us "in the loop" on this stuff.

Having been a U.S. naval officer during a slice of the Cold War, I've got a cadre of pals who are always willing to share their judgments with me, and, by extension, with you. I serve this like bad laws and cheap sausage: minced, processed, aggregated, and always with a dash of spice.

Russia is not a new kid on the naval block. Its warships have been fighting since before the U.S. was even the U.S. In fact, the father of the U.S. Navy, John Paul Jones, couldn't advance in the very navy he birthed, owing to political factors in Congress, so he eventually bailed to imperial Russia where he served as an admiral. Jones, a native of Scotland, later died in less than lavish circumstances in Paris.

Moving from then to now, you may have noticed that the Russian fleet has been in the news lately as various intrigues have swirled around Middle East affairs. Russia has a port in Syria so they have a military interest in the place. It's Russia's foothold in the Mediterranean. Everybody with a finger in that regional pie is talking smack, so it's hard to tell what is bluster and what isn't.

Still, if things in that region get more contentious, it will be interesting to see how Russia employs its fleet. Will it get its back up, or will it back down? A lot of pros are wondering if there is an invisible line in the sand on that gig, and, if so, where it's drawn. Hey, if nothing else, it's a good topic for a bar bet.

Statistics on Russia's fleet are a bit dicey for a lot of reasons, including judgments on what actually constitutes a serviceable vessel, and the fact that data is often dated. Russia's fleet is merely a shadow of its former (Soviet) self, but it still has at least a dozen ballistic missile subs ("boomers"), with more in development, plus roughly 75 other combatants such as other types of submarines, and cruisers, frigates, and destroyers. Additionally they have some smaller stuff and various support and amphibious assault ships as well. I'd like to refine and improve these figures, so maybe I'll get around to that someday.

Anyway, Russia's cash-strapped fleet is not as formidable as the U.S fleet, but it's still a real, fighting navy with a real, fighting tradition.

As for the tradition, or at least the doctrine from Soviet days, then as now, they yielded the aircraft carrier dominance to the U.S., and instead concentrated on submarines and on cruise missiles. I remember that those guys had missile launchers bolted to anything that could fight, float, or flounder.

Fortunately we didn't put the competing doctrines to the test back then. There would have been no winners; a victor, maybe, but no winner.

But the test hasn't been canceled. It's merely been postponed, as the development and proliferation of potent anti-ship missiles has advanced over the years. And that's due to many players, some large, some small. But, staying with the theme here, Russia's expertise is, among other ways, being employed via missile development and production in India and Vietnam.

If there are any substantial fisticuffs in the Pacific's future, anti-ship missiles might not only define a skirmish, but, depending on the results, might define the entire tone of the broader action. Russia might not be involved in such events at all, but much of the technology and thinking is due to their ideas for countering a carrier-based fleet.

That's not the last word on the topic, or the first, of course, but is rather an interim update just so we don't forget the bigger picture. A lot of military members read this column, so if you've got any insights then please sound off via my email. This is one old theme that is overdue for some new attention.

Health and pension vs contraction

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

It's an alarming economic indicator how the local government has amassed some $25 million in deficit, the bulk of which pertain to medical referral expenses.

This phenomenon tells us two things: 1). We have a very sick populace. 2). Both health and unfunded liabilities of the pension fund would saddle this government with more deficit than we've seen in our developmental history. At issue is how do we navigate the treacherous seas of revenue deceleration while obligations spike by leaps and bounds?

The only thing in mind is to individually return to the basic truth that health is a personal responsibility. Next, public health could promote healthy habits in schools via public education in personal hygiene. Please throw in healthy food and exercise too.

I recall at the opening of CHC in 1986 how young pupils in grammar school spoke of brushing their teeth twice or thrice daily. It's a tale that the public health education program succeeded in conveying why personal hygiene is important to one's health. Somehow, we dropped the ball as other politically attractive issues emerged. It's unhealthy!

For all its travails (mostly political), our only local hospital deserves the accolades of the Northern Marianas community for the extra mile its professional staff take daily to ensure our health needs are met despite the odds. I mean, professionals and vital ancillary staff have to endure crippling cuts in operations fund from $40 million annually to $5 million in seed fund. And this administration expects miracles in the collection of receivables, fully aware of self-imposed underemployment (austerity), unemployment as businesses contract, which then concurrently contracts revenue generation.

The unintended consequence of this stealth denial of funds for hospital operations without sufficiency in transition didn't absolve this administration of its financial obligations. It's despicably ill-conceived, riddled with lack of due diligence to ensure that CHC doesn't fall flat on its face in light of collateral issues falling short of expectations, i.e., revenue generation that has gone deep south. The heavy drain on revenues is a Herculean task to revive and not until hell freezes over.

Now, the growing number of long-term and catastrophic illnesses among locals make it even more important to revive public health education programs. Betel nut and tobacco chewing may not look disastrous on its face. But I have seen patients in off-island hospitals whose mouths have been deformed by oral cancer. They have been there for more than three months as medical experts treat the fatal illness, followed by reconstructive surgery.

Cardiovascular issues are equally troubling in the sense that one is self-inflicted, the other genetics. The former comes from woefully bad health habits that includes heavy smoking, heavy drinking, consuming too much fat and red meat, consuming too much sugar, coupled with a sedentary lifestyle—no exercise at all. The latter is inherited from your family. The only remedy is to be aware of it so you can commence healthy habits that would lessen the severity of the illness as you age.

Type II diabetes is the other genetically inherited long-term ill-

See HEALTH on Page 13

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Putting it bluntly

As a retiree, I'd like to clarify my position on several issues regarding the Retirement Fund. I've been reading the local papers the past few days and am totally flabbergasted, frustrated, and irked by some of the statements attributed to be representing "the retirees." Granted, the majority rules, and perhaps this is the case in several of these statements made publicly. However, as a retiree, I would like to voice my comments and clarify my position, which is NOT supportive of such moves.

Recently I learned that Brown Rudnick LLP and Braddock Huesman, LLC filed a couple of documents in the District Court (Revised Proposal of Debtor for Entry of Order Pursuant to First Modified Benefits Motion Providing for the Continued Payment of Certain Benefits to Beneficiaries [Docket No. 154]; and Notice of Hearing Re: Debtor's Revised Proposal for Entry of Order Pursuant to First Modified Benefits Motion Providing for the Continued Payment of Certain Benefits to Beneficiaries [Docket No. 158]). Why are these outrageously highly paid attorneys still on payroll when the Fund has several in-house lawyers? Isn't there any way to terminate this blundering contract since the bankruptcy is pretty much dismissed? If it's within the authority of the Fund administrator, then he needs to take control and find a way to *get rid of the highfalutin' attorneys* they hired, as they continue to siphon the dwindling retirement funds. If, as I'm told, "we're stuck with them," then he'd better have the in-house attorneys earn their pay by figuring out a way to put a stop to this blunder.

Another news I read states that a *dedicated tax from pensions and benefits of retirees* can make the idea of floating a bond attractive, that a special account under the Fund was also recommended to be established solely for these taxes. If this is an additional deduction to the already taxed pension, I do NOT support it nor do I support the plan to have my pensions deducted by 10 percent to guarantee the payment of the pension obligation bond. I spoke publicly against this at the meeting held at the Multi-Purpose Center. I have NOT changed my position on that. It's one of the most ridiculous move there is. *Our pensions are already being taxed*. If the government or anyone else who support the pension obligation bond wants to guarantee its payment, then let them use 10 percent of what's already deducted from our pension as income tax, or put up 10 percent of their budgets as guarantee. After all *it is the government who owes the retirees*, not the other way around. *No, I do not agree to a 10-percent cut to guarantee the payment of the bond*. I don't think it takes a rocket scientist to figure out why no retiree should support such a move! If the government wants to push for a bond to help pay its debt to the Fund, then the government should put up the 10 percent guarantee from its budgets, not from the retirees' already taxed pensions.

Another thing I read is the Commonwealth Retirees Association suggesting that the retirees hire an attorney to fight the executive order to restructure the Fund. What for? Why is the CRA going to spend more money hiring more attorneys? There are already attorneys involved with a lawsuit in the district court to try and collect the money the government owes the Retirement Fund. If the CRA has the money to hire attorneys, then give it to those who are already involved in the Roe and Doe case in the district court. At this stage, we really don't have any other alternative but to unite in supporting this case—everything else has *failed*, including the Superior Court, which we initially hoped would solve the problem, but has not. Instead, it just made it worse by more siphoning of the funds. Right now, I'd rather take my chances with the district court than a receiver appointed by the Superior Court.

I know I'm stepping on several toes with this letter but it had to be said and bluntly as can be so there's no misunderstanding of where I stand on this issues, especially the suggestions by CRA supposedly on my behalf as a retiree.

Gloria Hunter
San Antonio, Saipan

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲88 ° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

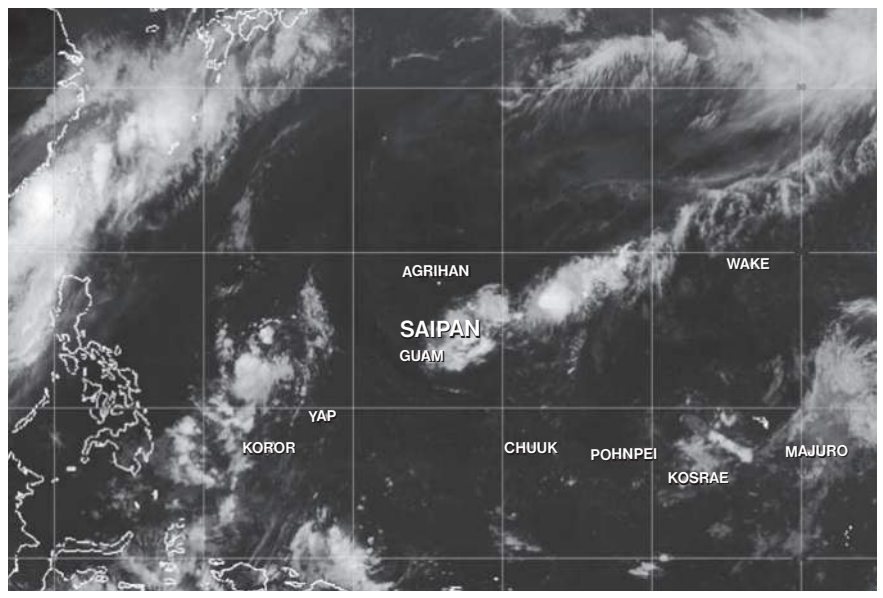
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲92	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲61	▼52
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲92	▼71
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼82
Honolulu	Sunny	▲84	▼73
London	Showers	▲68	▼56
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼61
Manila	Thundershowers	▲91	▼80
Melbourne	Rain	▲51	▼44
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼77
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲96	▼76
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲80	▼70
Paris	Showers	▲74	▼59
Pusan	Showers	▲74	▼66
Rome	Sunny	▲91	▼70
Salem	Sunny	▲80	▼53
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼52
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼67
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼69
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲98	▼79

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An elongated trough runs northeastward from Guam and Rota to east of Wake Island to beyond 25N169E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found within 100 miles of the trough axis from 14N145E to 22N164E. A broad circulation centered southwest of Koror at about 6N132E is associated with a surface trough that runs northeastward from the circulation to 13N136E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found from west of Koror to north of Koror within 100 miles of a line from 8N131E to 13N135E. Similar weather is found between the equator and 2N from 137E to 140E. A surface trough east of Majuro runs northwestward from 2N180 to 9N177E. The trough is interacting with a trade-wind convergence zone to produce scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Majuro between 7N and 12N from 170E to 179E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:00 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
8:39 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:04 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
11:07 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Sunday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Monday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:57 AM	8:04 PM
Friday	7:49 AM	8:49 PM
Saturday	8:41 AM	9:32 PM
Sunday	9:34 AM	10:13 PM
Monday	20:26 AM	10:55 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 13, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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HEALTH

From Page 11

ness. Surprising the number of locals who have been afflicted by it as they reach 40-plus years. If one is wary and attends to healthy habits, chances of developing chronic illnesses from diabetes are lessened. If you're careless, you may be rolling out the red carpet for kidney failure and a thrice-weekly session at a hemodialysis center.

I've seen other private hospitals between here and California. Private hospitals would turn you down if you don't have health insurance, regardless of your condition. I've also seen a busy private hospital in San Francisco use the triage system to determine who among 30 people on gurneys at the entrance receives medical attention. It's isn't fun listening to the decision about who gets in and who's left on the gurney as other catastrophic cases are wheeled-in by ambulance people.

The doctors and nurses at the ER and floor at CHC are real professionals who examine your condition, explain in simple English what they've found, recommend medication, hospitalization or medical referral, depending on the severity of illness. On the floor (wards) doctors come in to check on your condition regularly and work on what needs to be done to ensure your recovery. Too, they are the happiest people when they see you walk out of the hospital. If I may ingeminate, the hospital's professional staff deserves the accolades of the NMI community. There's no compromising the delivery of healthcare, despite its operations being crippled by funding issues.

■■■

Unsustainable pension fund

Now, the local pension program needs about $90 million annually to cover the paychecks of retirees. If I may note, the local government raked in some $102 million last fiscal year and it isn't likely that this dismal figure would improve in the near term.

It is a huge financial obligation the NMI could no longer afford. What must be done to navigate this difficulty? It's good the administration has decided to explore moving active employees to the U.S. social security system. It's the only option to working on some benefits upon retirement to provide for basic needs. Beyond this option, I doubt that there's another in the horizon to hitch a ride with.

The demise of the pension fund is caused by major indecisions since the outset some 32 years ago. These indecisions are mostly political in nature as to ignore that we were raising a huge elephant that eventually outgrew its own space in the room. It's so huge in unfunded liability—$330 million over a 32-year period—as to inflict collateral damage to other basic services like healthcare, education, among other services. This is the net trophy of hysteresis—we ignored the steady crash of the program—that steadily reached the high decibels of bankruptcy.

It was a generous program, factoring accumulated overtime into the final pension amount when such calculation should have been premised solely on base salary. The program ventured into a failed housing program that had to be scrapped. It also loaned millions of dollars that can't be paid on a timely basis by the agency when their revenues went south. It included members who never contributed to the fund.

Call these collateral damage "unintended consequences" of good intentions that have become a financial monstrosity. It must be one rude awakening of epic proportions and a reminder not to spend money you don't have sitting pretty in your wallet.

FARMERS

From Page 10

Because no one lobbies for the general interest, these costly legacies accumulate: the weapons even the Pentagon doesn't want, the tax subsidies to big oil companies, the unneeded military bases and post offices Uncle Sam won't close.

So yes, we can learn from the latest farm bill. Unfortunately, the lesson is one we already know all too well.

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Session Dates:
Session 1 : June 25 (Mon) - 29 (Fri) 9:00-10:00AM
Session 2* : July 02 (Mon) - 06 (Fri) 9:00-10:15 AM
*no class on July 4th

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NMC math placement test schedule

The Northern Marianas College will be math placement tests on the following dates:

- Aug. 14, Tuesday: 10am to 12pm, Room A-9
- Aug. 14, Tuesday: 5pm – 7pm, Room A-9
- Aug. 15, Wednesday: 10am to 12pm, Room A-9
- Aug. 16, Thursday: 10am to 12pm, Room A-9
- Aug. 16, Thursday: 5pm – 7pm, Room A-9
- Aug. 17, Friday: 10am to 12pm, Room A-9

Those who wish to take courses at NMC must take the placement tests. Registration for NMC's upcoming fall 2012 semester will begin on Monday, Aug. 13, 2012, and continue until Friday, Aug. 17, 2012.

There is a $25 fee for the placement test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for the placement test fee, or the NMC application fee). Students who have a fee waiver must obtain a placement test slip from the Office of Admissions and Records prior to taking the test.

Test takers must also bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after starting time.

Calculators may be used when taking the math placement test. Test takers are not allowed to take the math placement test more than once. The only exception to this condition is for those who have not taken a math class within one year of taking the math placement test.

If you have any questions about the math placement test, call the Sciences, Mathematics, Health & Athletics Dept. at 234-5498 Ext. 1202 or 1212.

For additional information about the placement tests and registration for the fall 2012 semester, log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

SDA Church hosts Bible school for Tinian kids

In April 2011 a group of nine went to Tinian from the Saipan Seventh Day Adventist Church to run a weeklong Vacation Bible School program during the PSS spring break. The group included Dr. Stafford and his family of the SDA Dental clinic and four teenagers from the Saipan Central SDA Church.

Andrea Stafford, the VBS director reports: "We were blessed by the time spent sharing and visiting in Tinian in 2011. The enthusiastic children who were so friendly melted our hearts. As we were leaving they wanted to know if we would do this every vacation. Although we could not say yes to every vacation, we are happy to be coming back to spend a part of the summer vacation with them. We are also looking forward to getting to know any other children who are interested in joining us. It is all free, open to the public and includes lessons, crafts, singing, snacks, and games."

The Vacation Bible School program's focus this week is on life in ancient Rome. The program runs from June 18 to 22, from 2pm to 4pm each day at the Tinian SDA Facility, ground floor of the Kim's Building. ***(PR)***

CONGRATULATIONS

Happy 26th wedding anniversary to Uncle Jun and Auntie Kai Lizama, both shown here standing, and happy birthday Auntie Kai, right, on your double special day. We love you! Greetings come from Craig and Tinie Calvo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 3rd birthday, Boom! Wishing you the best and we love you forever! Greetings come from Mom, Dad, Jovohni, Nina Stel, Nina Pauline, Nino Jeff, Ate Roma, Ate Jan, Famz, and the WIC family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Second group of job-seekers complete SHRM grant program

The Society for Human Resource Management's Workforce Readiness Initiative graduated its second group of trainees on June 2, completing a week of job preparation and wait staff skills in their efforts to find jobs in the CNMI's hotel and restaurant industry.

This group of job seekers, referred by the CNMI Department of Labor and the Workforce Investment Agency, received 40 hours of training during the week of May 29 to June 2, with direct food service and wait staff training, plus the food handler class from the Division of Environmental Health to obtain their food handlers certification.

"This was a good program with employable work skills training," said Frank Gibson, Initiative program manager for SHRM. "The applicants were interested and enthusiastic, showed up on time, and participated well. They received good solid training from knowledgeable and experienced instructors from the business community. They will all do well as waiters and waitresses."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The second group of the SHRM Workforce Readiness Initiative. From left, Denise Montenegro, instructor; John Omar, Christine Tangcoy, Shanae Shiprit, Leilani Borja, Christine Francisco, VickyMarie Espayo, Kathleen Beri, Tito Francisco; and Frank Gibson, program manager.

The second Initiative program participants were Kathleen Beri, Leilani Borja, VickyMarie Espayos, Christine Francisco, Tito Francisco, John Omar, Shanae Shiprit, and Christine Tangcoy.

The wait staff program included job preparation classes on job applications and résumés, job interviews, equal employment opportunity and sexual harassment, and employer expectations. Skills training classes were provided on customer service, four classes of basic restaurant services that included food and beverage services, and the food handlers certification class.

Gibson said the success of the program was also due to the professional skills and the interest of the instructors. "I would like to thank SHRM members Polly DLG Masga from PIC, Jim Arenovsky from Delta Management, Malou Ernest from Tan Holdings, and Josephine Mesta and Denise Montenegro from Hyatt Regency Saipan, who worked with the participants to prepare them for employment. Special thanks are owed to Melil Ngirausui from the Division of Environmental Health for the food handler certification training. Eric Plinske of StayWell Insurance volunteered his time to assist with mock job interviews. I appreciate the business community's willing assistance."

The Workforce Readiness Initiative is funded by a grant awarded to the CNMI SHRM by the U.S. Department of the Interior through the CNMI Department of Commerce in support of the CNMI Economic and Labor Enhancement Program. This Initiative to benefit the community started on April 16 with a one-week warehouseman training program and will continue on June 25 with a program for front desk clerk/receptionist/administrative clerk. The program will run Monday through Friday, June 29.

SHRM's role in administering this grant through its *Workforce Readiness* Initiative will be to facilitate the preparation of unemployed U.S. qualified workers through job preparation and skills training to be better qualified to enter the CNMI job market.

SHRM seeks the help of the business community to make this program a success and asks that businesses notify the *Workforce Readiness* Initiative of types of staff that they might need, so that the Initiative can arrange training programs to help fill these needs. SHRM also asks community businesses to work with the Initiative to place the people trained by the various programs into their organizations.

The Workforce Readiness Initiative is for the benefit of unemployed U.S. qualified workers. Qualified individuals who are registered with WIA or the DOL Employment Services should contact those offices and let them know of their interest. Those who are not registered and are interested in joining one of the Initiative programs should immediately register with WIA. All interested candidates should sign up with WIA to allow them to help employers with funding of Initiative graduates. Interested individuals can also contact Gibson by e-mail at hrsupportcnmi@gmail.com.

Although the Initiative does not guarantee a job for every participant, it will make every effort to get each graduate employed. Several companies have already committed to accepting Initiative graduates and the Initiative will continue to source jobs through its SHRM-member companies and other employers. Companies interested in considering Initiative graduates can also contact Gibson at hrsupportcnmi@gmail.com.

This program is supported by federal funds in the amount of $102,000 under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, CNMI Economic and Labor Enhancement Program through a Sub-grant award from the CNMI Department of Commerce. ***(SHRM)***

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- Free moving-service
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- Back-up generator
- Furnished unit w/ balcony
- Laundry facility
- Parking space

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WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AGENCY 2012 Summer Youth Employment Training Program Qualifiers

ALL QUALIFIERS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND THE WORK READINESS WORKSHOP

Wednesday, July 4 is an observed Holiday. ALL WIA Trainees DO NOT work on this day.

SAIPAN QUALIFIERS

1st PHASE Work Schedule*: Monday, July 2-Monday July 23, 2012

	PARTICIPANT	POSITION	PLACEMENT	WORKSHOP SCHEDULE
1	**AGUILAR, Kimiko Kristie Ann C.**	Office Clerk	NMHC-Administration	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
2	**AGUTO, Gerald Jesse M. Jr.**	Stocker	Joeten-Kagman Market	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
3	**AGUON, Thelina Rosarita T.**	Office Assistant	CPA-Lease/Compliance & HR	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
4	**AGUON, Mercelia Agnes T.**	Clerical	DPS-Human Resources	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
5	**ALAZAR, Sharmaine Rose M.**	Accounting Clerk	IT&E-Finance & Accounting Department (Susupe)	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
6	**ALDAN, Liyan Yushin L.**	Legal Assistant	Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney At Law	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
7	**ALDAN, Michael C.**	Stocker	Joeten-Dandan Market	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
8	**ALOMIA, Laisiis D.L Jr.**	Clerical Aide	Office of the Public Defender	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
9	**AMANDES, Clarence Lee**	Recreation Worker	Garapan Community Development Center	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
10	**AMANDES, Malcolm D.**	Stocker	Joeten-Ace Hardware Gualo Rai	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
11	**ANDY, Myron Jordan**	Office Clerk	NMHC-Fiscal Division	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
12	**ANUNCIACION, Christine L.**	Sales Clerk	Joeten-Susupe Department Store	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
13	**ARRIOLA, San Juan Peter S.**	License Clerk	DPS-BMV	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
14	**BABAUTA, Ivilynn J.**	Office Clerk	Office of the Mayor-SHEFA	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
15	**BABAUTA, Crystal Kay B.**	Sales Representative	Joeten-All Star	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
16	**BABAUTA, Dusery Dionne L.**	Data Entry Clerk	Department of Commerce-Office of the Registrar	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
17	**BABAUTA, Dyvisy J.**	Recreation Worker	Garapan Community Development Center	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
18	**BABAUTA, Jacob R.**	Office Clerk	DCCA-Child Care Development Fund Program	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
19	**BABAUTA, Joana B.**	Bagger	Joeten-Hafa Adai Shopping Center	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
20	**BABAUTA, Versalli R.**	Parole Officer Aide	Board of Parole	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
21	**BAUTISTA, Bradley Roy I.**	Guest Service Officer-Bell Service	Hyatt Regency Saipan	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
22	**BELI, Belmina**	Office Clerk	Office of the Mayor-Municipality of Saipan	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
23	**BENSON, Steven G.**	Auto Mechanic Helper	Torres Refrigeration, Inc.	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
24	**BER ATAN, Referson**	Office Clerk	NMHC-Mortgage & Credit Division	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
25	**BIADO, Carieza Camille D.**	Administrative Support Assistant	CUC-Power Division Office	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
26	**BLEWETT, Kaylani Matricia L.**	Sales Representative	Joeten-The Athletes Foot (Susupe)	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
27	**BORJA, Saralynn S.**	Registration Clerk	DPS-BMV	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
28	**BORJA, Stanely S.**	Human Resource Clerk	Coral Ocean Point Resort Club	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
29	**Cabaohas, Frank A.**	Office Assistant	CPA-Administration	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
30	**CABRERA, Annalyn Jovannah**	Youth Congress Coordinator	Legislative Bureau	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
31	**CABRERA, Brandon Jon E.**	Terminal Documentation Clerk	Saipan Stevedore Company, Inc.	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
32	**CABRERA, Jewels Malia A.**	Administrative Support Assistant	CUC-Procurement Office	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
33	**CABRERA, Sherylyn E.**	Clerical Trainee	Pacific Trading Company	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
34	**CALAGE, Billy Jhee P.**	Office Clerk	DCCA-NAP	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
35	**CALAGE, Reence Jefferson S.**	Office Assistant	CPA-Ports Police	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
36	**CAMACHO, Brittney Jean O.**	Administrative Assistant	DOF-Division of Customs Services (Seaport)	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
37	**CAMACHO, Ladale A.**	Administrative Assistant (Seaport)	DOF-Division of Customs Services	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
38	**CASTRO, Bradley Jon**	Engineering Trainee	Aqua Resort Club	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
39	**CASTRO, Jacqueline Rose**	Accounting Clerk	Pacific Trading Company	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
40	**CASTRO, Michael Jordan**	F&B Trainee	Aqua Resort Club	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
41	**CELIS, Dryver Jeon C.**	Administrative Assistant	DPW-Technical Services Division (Gualo Rai)	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
42	**CHENOR, Samantha E.**	Filing Clerk	Bank of Saipan-CK Branch	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
43	**CHOITER, Kayleen**	Sales Clerk	Joeten-Susupe Department Store	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
44	**CRUZ, Ignacia Lulu M.**	Customs Trainee (Seaport)	DOF-Division of Customs Services	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
45	**CUCAL, Hinky Vi D.**	Office Clerk	DCCA-NAP	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
46	**CUCAL, Young Arui D.**	Office Clerk	DCCA-NAP	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
47	**CUBAMAI, Maria R.**	Terminal Documentation Clerk	Saipan Stevedore Company, Inc.	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
48	**DANFORD, Esperanza P.**	Office Clerk	DCCA-NAP	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
49	**OGO, Kishia Edynn R.**	Legal Assistant	Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney At Law	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
50	**DOWE, Handy. I.**	Forestry Trainee	DLNR-DOA CNMI Forestry	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
51	**DELOS SANTOS, Jerry Robert M.**	Stocker	Joeten-Dandan Market	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
52	**DEMAPAN, Anna Rit A.**	Clerk	IT&E-Sales & Marketing (Chalan Laulau)	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
53	**DEMAPAN, Arnold Sherman A.**	CADD Work/Construction Inspector Trainee	Pangelinan & Associates	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
54	**DEMAPAN, Gus Frederick A.**	Office Clerk	DCCA-NAP	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
55	**DEMAPAN, Kliffort Bernard A.**	IT Trainee	IT&E-Information Technology Department (Chalan Laulau)	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
56	**DEPICH, Jeanna**	Sales Merchandiser	Transpacific International Inc.-Coca Cola	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
57	**DIONSIO, Julie'ann Marie**	Office Clerk	Office of the Mayor-SHEFA	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
58	**DIONSIO, Keoloni Kristine**	Office Clerk	NMHC-Planner/Writer Section	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
59	**ESEFOU, Albert S.**	Office Clerk	DCCA-NAP	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
60	**ESNER, Keri Rose C.**	Office Assistant	CPA-Ports Police	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
61	**ESNER, Kerin C. Jr.**	Customs Trainee (Seaport)	DOF-Division of Customs Services	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
62	**ESNER, Kinison Tamison C.**	Customs Trainee (Airport)	DOF-Division of Customs Services	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
63	**ESNER, Kirk E.**	Stocker	Joeten-Ace Hardware San Vicente	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
64	**EUBANKS, Travis Ikka I. R.**	Stocker	Joeten-Ace Hardware Susupe	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
65	**EUBANKS, Tyler Jae**	Stocker	Joeten-Ace Hardware San Vicente	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
66	**FASALO, Jennica Kristie C.**	Library Assistant	Joeten-Kiyu Public Library	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
67	**FERNANDEZ, Merly Ann**	Office Clerk	DCCA-NAP	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
68	**GUNIFRAD, Joseph**	Customs Trainee (Airport)	DOF-Division of Customs Services	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
69	**GUNIFRAD, Joseph Nalog V.**	Office Assistant	CPA-Ports Police	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
70	**HOSSAIN, Mohammed Ali**	Stocker	Joeten-Ace Hardware Susupe	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
71	**HOSSAIN, Mohammed Ali**	Butcher Trainee	Joeten-Susupe Market	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
72	**IGISOMAR, Leony Jane**	Recreation Worker	Garapan Community Development Center	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
73	**IGISOMAR, Shawa Kris**	Stocker	Joeten-Kagman Market	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
74	**ILO, Liiswaan Moses**	Enforcement & Compliance Trainee	Department of Commerce-Enforcement & Compliance	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
75	**ILO, Rianalyn C.**	Data Entry Clerk	Department of Commerce-Office of the Registrar	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
76	**JOHN, Alisi**	Office Clerk	DPS-Human Resources	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
77	**JONES, Janet L.**	Office Clerk	Office of the Mayor-SHEFA	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
78	**JONES, Jessilyn L.**	Recreation Worker	Garapan Community Development Center	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
79	**KAIPAT, Carmenlita Lupe**	Enforcement & Compliance Trainee	Department of Commerce-Enforcement & Compliance	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
80	**KAIPAT, Franklin Daniel**	Data Entry Clerk	Department of Commerce-Office of the Registrar	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
81	**KAIPAT, Leilagh B.**	Registration Clerk	DPS-BMV	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
82	**KLIU, Peterson J.**	Administrative Support Assistant	CUC-Communications Office	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
83	**KENIO, Ita**	Office Clerk	DCCA-NAP	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
84	**LACANDAZO, Erene Rose S.**	Office Assistant	CPA-Ports Police	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
85	**LAGAT, Sherlyn J.**	Administrative Assistant	DPW-Technical Services Division (Capitol Hill)	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
86	**LIZAMA, Austin John K.**	License Clerk	DPS-BMV	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
87	**LIZAMA, Dorothea Carmen D.**	Office Clerk	Workforce Investment Agency	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
88	**LIZAMA, Dupuonahn Loraine D.**	Forestry Trainee	DLNR-DOA CNMI Forestry	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
89	**LIZAMA, Franklin K.**	Office Clerk	DPS-Traffic Section	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
90	**LIZAMA, Jeffrey John C.**	Customs Trainee (CK Postal)	DOF-Division of Customs Services	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
91	**LIZAMA, Jose C. Jr.**	Environmental Trainee	DEQ-Wastewater Branch	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
92	**MAGOFNA, John Jacob S.**	House Legislative Assistant	Legislative Bureau	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
93	**MANAHAN, Maeda H. Jr.**	F&B Trainee	Hyatt Regency Saipan	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
94	**MARAS, Rasuka RJ E.**	Office Clerk	DCCA-NAP	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
95	**MARATITA, Roman John C.**	Procurement Specialist	Legislative Bureau	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
96	**MORALES, Stephanie Natasha C.**	Administrative Assistant	Saipan Stevedore Company, Inc.	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
97	**MOSES, Casandra**	Filing Clerk	Bank of Saipan-CK Branch	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
98	**MUNA, Stevielyn Germel I.**	Library Assistant	Joeten-Kiyu Public Library	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
99	**NORITA, Nayshia D.**	Warehouseman	Joeten-Susupe Distribution Center	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
100	**NEKAIFES, Andy SP.**	Produce Assistant	Joeten-Susupe Market	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
101	**NORECH, Agatha Christine W.**	Office Assistant	DPL-Planning Division	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
102	**NORITA, Carissa A.**	Administrative Assistant	DPW-Technical Services Division (Capitol Hill)	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
103	**NORITA, Dennis N.**	Stocker	Joeten-Susupe Market	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
104	**NORITA, Jenesh N.**	Office Clerk	Office of the Secretary	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
105	**NORITA, Rose Marie N.**	Customer Service Clerk	IT&E-Customer Service Department (Chalan Laulau)	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
106	**OLOPAI, Jiovonni Lars**	IT Trainee	IT&E-Information Technology Department (Chalan Laulau)	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
107	**OLOPAI, Verdyn Rose W.**	Senate Journal Clerk	Legislative Bureau	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
108	**PANGELINAN, Nathaniel Anthony**	Fast Food Worker	Transpacific International Inc.-Subway/Scoops	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
109	**PETER, Marrny F.**	Office Clerk	DCCA-NAP	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
110	**PETER, Mfred F.**	Clerk	IT&E-Sales & Marketing (Chalan Laulau)	8-12noon Monday, June 25, 2012 American Memorial Park
111	**PHILLIP, Lovenie R.**	Receptionist	Bank of Saipan-CK Branch	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
112	**PINEK, Kirie S.**	Record Keeping Trainee	DPW-Building Safety Code Division (Gualo Rai)	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
113	**QUICHOCHO, Norman A.**	Office Clerk	DCCA-NAP	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
114	**QUIMSON, Shiela Marie E.**	Office Clerk	NMC-School of Education	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
115	**RAMAGNIOU, Stacy Monigao A.**	Clerical Aide	Office of the Public Defender	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
116	**RENGIIL, Maryjane Camillagan R.**	Administrative Assistant	Eco Island Development	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
117	**REYES, Asunsion S.**	Customs Trainee (Airport)	DOF-Division of Customs Services	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
118	**REYES, Larissa Marie M.**	Clerical Aide	Office of the Public Defender	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
119	**REYES, Nadalene Ated D.**	Office Clerk	Board of Parole	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
120	**REYES, Suzie I.**	Customs Trainee (Airport)	DOF-Division of Customs Services	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
121	**RIOS, Esteban A.**	Administrative Assistant	DOF-Division of Customs Services (Seaport)	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
122	**RIOS, Haley Jessophie A.**	Library Assistant	Joeten-Kiyu Public Library	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
123	**RIOS, Jack Daniel A.**	Warehouseman	Pacific Trading Company	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
124	**RIOS, Moses Angel A. Jr.**	Administrative Assistant	DOF-Division of Customs Services (Seaport)	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
125	**RIOS, Rismono Ambrason A.**	Trades Helper	DPW-Technical Services Division (Capitol Hill)	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
126	**SABLAN, Clara Joice P.**	Administrative Support Assistant	CUC-Executive Director Office	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
127	**SABLAN, Francine B.**	Registration Clerk	DPS-BMV	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
128	**SABLAN, Frankie F.**	Stocker	Joeten-Susupe Market	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
129	**SABLAN, Julian S.**	Office Clerk	NMC-School of Education	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
130	**SALAZAR, Dane R.**	Dispatcher	DPS-Police Division	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
131	**SAN NICOLAS, Julie May M.**	Web Content Editor	Legislative Bureau	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
132	**SANCHEZ, Emy Lyn T.**	Office Clerk	DCCA-Office of the Secretary	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
133	**SANCHEZ, Rodalene Carmen G.**	Office Clerk	DPL-Real Estate Division	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
134	**SANTOS, Angel T.**	Customs Trainee (Seaport)	DOF-Division of Customs Services	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
135	**SANTOS, Grace Marie**	Administrative Support Assistant	IT&E-Engineering & Plant Technical Services Department	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
136	**SANTOS, Jena T.**	F&B Trainee	Aqua Resort Club	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
137	**SANTOS, Louana Kity**	Office Clerk	DCCA-NAP	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
138	**SARALU, Adela Francis Ignacia S.N.**	Clerk	IT&E-Human Resources (Susupe)	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
139	**SARALU, Jackylynn S.N.**	Accounting Clerk	IT&E-Finance & Accounting Department (Susupe)	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
140	**SATUR, Jackleen L.**	Office Clerk	DPL-Real Estate Division	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
141	**SATUR, Mariano Junian L.**	Parole Officer Aide	Board of Parole	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
142	**SHOKING, Josnen S.**	Fast Food Worker	McDonald's of Saipan	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
143	**SIMINA, Justin**	Fast Food Worker	McDonald's of Saipan	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
144	**SOLOMON, Ehrick C.**	Dispatcher	DPS-Fire Division	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
145	**SOLOMON, Elemen C. Jr.**	License Clerk	DPS-BMV	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
146	**SUDA, Curina Mae**	Office Clerk	Office of the Mayor-SHEFA	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
147	**TAITINGFONG, Shawn Jacob**	Surveyor Trainee	DPL-Planning Division	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
148	**TAMAN, Joseph L.**	Sales Representative	Joeten-Boardertine	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
149	**TAMAN, Lupe Inez L.**	Office Clerk	NMHC-Administration	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
150	**TAMAN, Randy S. Jr.**	Material Clerk	Hyatt Regency Saipan	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
151	**TAMMY, Este**	Sales Representative	Joeten-The Athletes Foot (Garapan)	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
152	**TAULE, Leilani Euege O.**	Recreation Worker	Garapan Community Development Center	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
153	**TENORIO, Korey Samson P.**	Administrative Assistant	DPW-Technical Services Division (Capitol Hill)	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
154	**TERLAJE, Regina Judith B.**	Administrative Assistant	Joeten-Susupe Distribution Center	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
155	**TIPINGENI, Malcaz Jr.**	Community Worker	Office of the Mayor-Municipality of Saipan	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
156	**TORRES, Anthony Jacob P. Jr.**	Library Assistant	Legislative Bureau	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
157	**TORRES, Julie Ann**	Office Clerk	Department of Commerce-Banking Division	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
158	**TORRES, Ruth Ann P.**	Data Entry Clerk	Department of Commerce-Office of the Registrar	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
159	**TUDELA, Pedro Joaquin**	Forestry Trainee	DLNR-DOA CNMI Forestry	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
160	**TUMADA, April Melanie C.**	Office Clerk	Board of Professional Licensing/HealthCare Professional Licensing Board	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
161	**WABOL, Jolynn Rose N.**	House Journal Clerk	Legislative Bureau	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
162	**WEILBACHER, Jasmine Brianne**	Record Keeping Trainee	DPW-Building Safety Code Division (Gualo Rai)	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park

2st PHASE Work Schedule: Tuesday, July 24- Monday, August 13, 2012

	PARTICIPANT	POSITION	PLACEMENT	WORKSHOP SCHEDULE
163	**ABADAM, Carolynn C.**	Office Clerk	Board of Professional Licensing/HealthCare Professional Licensing Board	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
164	**ABADAM, Donna Jane C.**	Office Clerk	Workforce Investment Agency	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
165	**ADA, Keshani Beatrice**	Office Assistant	CPA-Administration	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
166	**ADERKERIOI, Francia Ungel Dill**	Data Entry Clerk	Department of Commerce-Office of the Registrar	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
167	**ADORO, Kerr K.**	Sales Representative	Joeten-Boardertine	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
168	**AGTON, Margaret Fely R.**	House Journal Clerk	Legislative Bureau	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
169	**AGUSTINO, Arlyana D.**	Housekeeping Coordinator	Hyatt Regency Saipan	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
170	**ALDAN, Leilani DLG.**	Office Clerk	DCCA-NAP	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
171	**ALDAN, Marianna Joyce B.**	Office Clerk	CNMI Scholarship Office	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
172	**ALEXANDER, Romeo**	Dispatcher	DPS-Police Division	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
173	**ALFOREZA, Kricelle P.**	Office Assistant	DPL-Planning Division	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
174	**ALVAREZ, Kyle M.**	Office Clerk	DCCA-NAP	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
175	**ANGEX, Sherrey L.**	Sales Representative	Joeten-The Athletes Foot (Garapan)	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
176	**ATALIG, Bryton Tyler**	Fast Food Worker	McDonald's of Saipan	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
177	**BABILLO, Tasha Lian M.**	Office Clerk	DCCA-NAP	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
178	**BASTO, Alaina Fe A.**	Filing Clerk	Bank of Saipan-CK Branch	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
179	**BAUTISTA, Kimberly A.**	Clerical Aide	Office of the Public Defender	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
180	**BAUTISTA, Sophia Laurine A.**	Administrative Assistant	Eco Island Development	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
181	**BENAVENTE, JJ S.**	Trades Helper	DPW-Technical Services Division (Gualo Rai)	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
182	**BENIG, Noemee D.**	Library Assistant	Joeten-Kiyu Public Library	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
183	**BONDOC, Chiko C.**	Filing Clerk	Bank of Saipan-CK Branch	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
184	**BORJA, Britney Ann C.**	Office Clerk	CNMI Scholarship Office	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
185	**BORJA, Colleen Mildred C.**	Office Clerk	DCCA-Office of the Secretary	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
186	**BORJA, Elisha Maria**	Office Clerk	Office of the Mayor-Municipality of Saipan	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
187	**BORJA, Peter Gabriel DLC.**	Customs Trainee (Airport)	DOF-Division of Customs Services	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
188	**BRANA, April Kate P.**	Library Assistant	Joeten-Kiyu Public Library	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
189	**CABRERA, April Jean S.**	Senate Journal Clerk	Legislative Bureau	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
190	**CABRERA, Zanny Marie A.**	Web Content Editor	Legislative Bureau	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
191	**CALAGE, Marck Anthony S.**	Legal Assistant	Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney At Law	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
192	**CAMACHO, Kayla R.**	Accounting Clerk	Chong's Corporation	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
193	**CAMACHO, Kiandi R.**	Record Keeping Trainee	DPW-Building Safety Code Division (Gualo Rai)	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
194	**CASTRO, Charlotte Gabrielle R.**	Youth Congress Coordinator	Legislative Bureau	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
195	**CASTRO, F.-jay G.**	Community Worker	Office of the Mayor-Municipality of Saipan	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
196	**CASTRO, Lodelyn T.**	Office Clerk	DCCA-NAP	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
197	**CASTRO, Queenlyn T.**	Office Clerk	NMC-School of Education	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
198	**CATILO, Kenneth S.**	Office Clerk	DCCA-NAP	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
199	**CELESTE, Wilson Kenneth C.**	Stocker Clerk	Joeten-Ace Hardware Gualo Rai	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
200	**CHONG, Francisco P.**	Guest Service Officer-Club Elan	Hyatt Regency Saipan	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
201	**CRISOSTOMO, Maggie Jane R.**	Office Clerk	DCCA-Child Care Development Fund Program	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
202	**CRISOSTOMO, Richard ER R.**	Forestry Trainee	DLNR-DOA CNMI Forestry	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
203	**DACUMA, Princess Diane V.**	Administrative Assistant	Sorenson Media Saipan	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
204	**DEFIANG, Freeman S.**	Library Assistant	Joeten-Kiyu Public Library	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
205	**DEFIANG, Norman S.**	Office Clerk	CPA-Ports Police	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
206	**DELEON GUERRERO, Ashlynn R.**	Data Entry Clerk	Department of Commerce-Office of the Registrar	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
207	**DELEON GUERRERO, Bernadita Jacinta P.**	Office Clerk	Office of the Mayor-SHEFA	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
208	**DELOS SANTOS, Anthony Junior M.**	Stocker	Joeten-Dandan Market	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
209	**DICHOSO, RasselAnn D.**	Office Clerk	NMHC-Fiscal Division	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
210	**DIZON, Kenandra Shanice DLC**	Recreation Worker	Garapan Community Development Center	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
211	**DOCA, Rita Lorraine V.**	Accounting Clerk	IT&E-Finance & Accounting Department (Susupe)	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
212	**ENCABO, Frederick Ricky**	Office Clerk	DCCA-NAP	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
213	**ENSER, Terrane C.**	Office Clerk	DPL-Real Estate Division	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
214	**ESCALADA, Shawn J.**	Stocker	Joeten-Susupe Market	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
215	**ESPAYOS, Matthew M.**	Customs Trainee (Airport)	DOF-Division of Customs Service	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
216	**ESPINOSA, Shanihia N.**	Office Clerk	DCCA-NAP	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
217	**ESPINOSA, Daryl Jodge E.**	License Clerk	DPS-BMV	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
218	**EVANGELISTA, Mersina Dulcela I.**	Guest Service Officer-Club Elan	Hyatt Regency Saipan	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
219	**FAISAO, Doming T. Jr.**	Data Entry Clerk	Department of Commerce-Office of the Registrar	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
220	**FONTANILLA, Gregson M.**	Sales Clerk	Chong's Corporation	1-5pm Monday, June 25 2012 American Memorial Park
221	**FUKUCHI, Dzeleen Theresa M.**

Business

Fed extends 'Twist' program to drive rates lower

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve is trying again to jolt the American economy out of its stalled recovery. It's extending a program that aims to encourage borrowing and spending by reducing long-term interest rates.

Wednesday's decision followed months of concern that the economy is being held back by a weakened job market.

At the end of a two-day policy meeting, the Fed also sharply reduced its forecast for U.S. growth and said it's prepared to take more action if necessary. It reiterated plans to keep short-term interest rates at record lows until at least late 2014.

"If we're not seeing a sustained improvement in the labor market, that would require additional action," Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke said later in the day.

Wall Street wasn't impressed by the Fed's limited response. Stock prices barely budged. And analysts questioned how much benefit the Fed's latest economy-boosting effort would have, in part because interest rates are already near record lows.

If the Fed's more pessimistic outlook proves accurate, President Barack Obama's chances in an election that will turn on the economy would also likely suffer.

AP

In a June 7, 2012, file photo, Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke testifies before the Joint Economic Committee about the nation's economy on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Bernanke noted that the economy is under threat from Europe's debt crisis and the prospect of sharp spending cuts and tax increases that would take effect at the end of the year unless Congress acts.

European leaders will be seeking a breakthrough at a summit next week in Brussels. Bernanke said he's in regular touch with the head of the European Central Bank.

The Fed said it will continue a program called Operation Twist through year's end. Under the program, the Fed has been selling $400 billion in short-term Treasurys since September and buying longer-term Treasurys. Operation Twist was to expire at the end of June. The Fed said it will extend it using $267 billion in securities.

But extending Operation Twist might not provide much benefit. Businesses and consumers who aren't borrowing now aren't that likely to change their minds just because rates dropped a little more.

"This move is largely symbolic," said David Jones, chief economist at DMJ Advisors.

Jones estimates Operation Twist will lower long-term rates by only about one-tenth of a percentage point.

Liberals urge Obama to go after Wall Street harder

WASHINGTON (AP)—Message from liberals to President Barack Obama: Your economic message is muddled, go after Wall Street harder.

With the November election looming, some of the president's most ardent backers are fretting that the incumbent Democrat isn't successfully making the case for a second term at a time of economic turmoil. And they argue that he should sharpen his message by taking a firm stand against the financial sector's excesses.

"If he really took on Wall Street big time, if he told the story of how Wall Street are villains, made them the enemy, we could take them down," Paul Sasso, a 47-year-old liberal from San Diego, said this week. "To me, that could win him the election, I'm sure."

It was a sentiment similarly expressed by more than a dozen other self-described progressive activists attending this week's Take Back the American Dream conference in Washington.

Some said that the rhetoric of the Occupy Wall Street movement had been disappointingly absent from Obama's message. Others implored the president to pressure Republican challenger Mitt Romney to reveal the big-dollar donors who are fueling his campaign by "bundling" contributions from smaller donors. Activists also said they were put off by what they called Obama's lack of exasperation when efforts to regulate Wall Street post-recession fell short of what many had demanded.

"Obama's catering too much to Wall Street," said Mark McDermott, a retiree from Seattle. "We gave those banks billions of dollars, and we didn't break them up. They're sitting on the money and their profits are sky-high again, and we're supposed to be happy about this?"

He pointed to Jamie Dimon, the CEO of JPMorgan Chase & Co., who faced a less-than-bruising round of questions from Congress over $2 billion in trading losses.

Less than five months before the election, the economy and related issues such as income disparity are shaping a presidential campaign that polls show is competitive.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Japan utility admits flaws worsened tsunami crisis

TOKYO (AP)—The operator of the Japanese nuclear plant devastated by last year's tsunami issued a final report on the disaster Wednesday, outlining organizational and communication problems that have not yet been resolved. The report by Tokyo Electric Power Co. comes as Japan prepares to restart its first nuclear reactors since the March 11, 2011, disaster led to a prolonged shutdown of all of the country's atomic generating plants. While many Japanese remain deeply concerned about the safety of nuclear power, the restart raises operators' hopes that more reactors can resume operations. The massive tsunami severely damaged four reactors at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant north of Tokyo, knocking out cooling systems and triggering meltdowns and radiation leaks. Tens of thousands of people fled their homes in the worst atomic disaster since Chernobyl.

FDA panel unanimously backs Onyx cancer drug

WASHINGTON (AP)—A federal panel of cancer specialists on Wednesday unanimously recommended approval of an experimental drug from Onyx Pharmaceuticals Inc. for patients with advanced blood cancer. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration panel voted 11-0, with one abstention, in favor of carfilzomib as a treatment for patients with advanced forms of multiple myeloma that hasn't responded to other drugs. The FDA is not required to follow the group's advice but often does. A final decision is expected by July 27.

Uruguay plan to let govt sell marijuana

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (AP)—Uruguay's national government said Wednesday it hopes to fight a growing crime problem by selling marijuana to citizens registered to buy it, and will send a bill to Congress that would make it the first country in the world to do so. Under the plan, only the government would be allowed to sell marijuana and only to adults who register on a government database, letting officials keep track of their purchases over time. Minister of Defense Eleuterio Fernandez Huidobro told reporters in Montevideo that the measure aims to weaken crime in the country by removing profits from drug dealers and diverting users from harder drugs.

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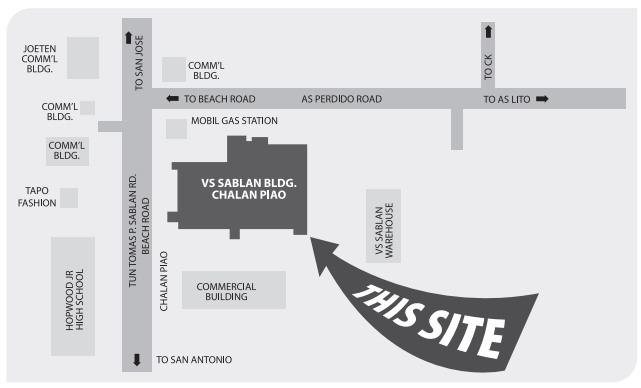

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At our **Chalan Kanoa Building**, we have an 2nd Floor Apartment Unit available for rent above Pena House and 2nd floor Office Space above Bank of Saipan. Both are ready for occupancy on June 30th. Call to see and inquire about monthly rent price. **Very Affordable.**

At **Our Chalan Piao Building, VSS PLAZA** we have rental space available on the **first floor** now at **65 cents per square foot** for units ranging from 700 sq ft to 1400 sq ft. Large 4500 square foot space on the second floor that would be ideal for a GYM or Dance Studio at **35 cents per square foot.**

2nd Floor Apartment for Rent at our Chalan Kanoa Annex Location – 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath, 600 sq ft, Newly Refurbished (New Tiles, Paint, Great Floor Plan), Semi Furnished with New Refrigerator & Tabletop 2 Burner Gas Range (Save on Power). Wall Fans Installed in each Room. Must see to Appreciate **REDUCED RENT at $285.00 per Month plus Utilities.**

2nd Floor Apartment at our Chalan Piao Location – 1BR 1 Bath 560 sq ft with Refrigerator $235.00 per month plus Utilities

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For Lease – 53,500 Sq Meters Available for Lease in Kanat Tabla.
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COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
TRASH COLLECTION SERVICES
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-003-12

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for **Trash Collection Services** for a period of **two years** at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing trash collection services for the Airport as described in the scope of work. The **bid package** which includes the **scope of work, draft agreement, and insurance requirements** will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning **Friday, May 25, 2012**. Bidders must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Proposal for the Trash Collection Services at the Francisco C. Ada/ Saipan International Airport".* One original and three (3) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, MONDAY, JUNE 25, 2012**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read.

The apparent lowest bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and insurance requirements. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive and responsible," their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

A **pre-bid conference** will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **9:00 am, Tuesday, June 12, 2012** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders may attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director in writing at least 7 days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

Contractor will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA's requirements. Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation For Bids; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of offeror's preparation of the bid or supply under the contract. This IFB does not commit CPA to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

May 15, 2012
Date

Seremea I. Nowell and
Magdalena S. Ricky
P.O. Box 503060, Garapan
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 233-0179

Pro Se,

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In re the Matter of Adoption of: J.R.L.N. (d.o.b. 02/26/2006), by Seremea Isy Nowell and Magdalena Salomon Ricky Petitioners	)	FCD AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 12 - 0277 **ORDER SHORTENING TIME AND NOTICE OF HEARING**

GOOD CAUSE APPREARING, It is hereby ordered that the time for notice of hearing for Petitioner(s) petition be shortened and that the hearing be set on July 2, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 217A.

Dated this 11th day of June, 2012.

/s/ Perry B. Inos
Judge

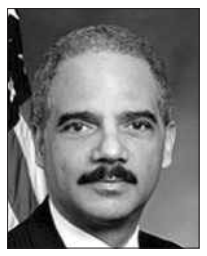
Nation

GOP House committee holds AG Holder in contempt

WASHINGTON (AP)—Setting up a potential constitutional confrontation, a Republican-controlled House panel voted Wednesday to cite Attorney General Eric Holder for contempt of Congress, just hours after President Barack Obama invoked executive privilege—for the first time—to withhold documents demanded by the committee.

The party-line vote was 23-17 following hours of caustic debate. The controversy goes next to the full House, where Republican Speaker John Boehner said there would be a vote next week unless there was some resolution in the meantime.

Committee Chairman Darrell Issa of California said that "more than eight months after a subpoena" for the documents—which concern how the Justice Department learned there were problems with an Arizona probe of gun-running into Mexico—Obama's "untimely assertion" of executive privilege was no reason to delay the contempt vote.


Holder

No, it was just political, said Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, the committee's ranking Democrat. He called the vote "an extreme, virtually unprecedented action based on election-year politics rather than fact."

The last Cabinet member to be cited by a congressional committee for contempt was Attorney General Janet Reno in President Bill Clinton's administration. That was never brought to a follow-up vote in the full House.

Technically, if the full House approves the Holder contempt citation, there could be a federal criminal case against him, but history strongly suggests the matter won't get that far.

Whether Congress could force the Justice Department to turn over the documents is a basic question. In the Watergate case, the Supreme Court ordered President Richard Nixon to turn over taped conversations to a criminal prosecutor. But in the Nixon case, the justices also found a constitutional basis for claims of executive privilege, leaving the door open for presidents to cite it in future clashes with Congress.

In the administration's claim of executive privilege, Deputy Attorney General James Cole said in a letter to Issa, "We regret that we have arrived at this point, after the many steps we have taken to address the committee's concerns and to accommodate the committee's legitimate oversight interests."

As the day went on, comments rapidly grew more heated. A Boehner spokesman suggested administration officials had lied earlier or were now "bending the law." Cummings said Issa "had no interest" in resolving the issue and was trying to pick a fight.

The White House reacted sharply to the committee action. "Instead of creating jobs or strengthening the middle-class, congressional Republicans are spending their time on a politically motivated, taxpayer-funded election-year fishing expedition," Communications Director Dan Pfeiffer said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Sandusky defense rests on 3rd day in abuse case

BELLEFONTE, Pa. (AP)—The defense in Jerry Sandusky's child sex abuse trial rested on its third day Wednesday without calling the former Penn State assistant coach to dispute charges that he molested boys at his home and on campus over more than a decade. Closing arguments were set for Thursday in the case that led to the dismissal of Hall of Fame football coach Joe Paterno, the ouster of the university president and a re-examination of college administrators' role in reporting abuse charges. The defense called only four new witnesses Wednesday, including a physician who they used to try and poke holes in the story of a Penn State coaching assistant who testified that he saw Sandusky sexually assault a boy in the campus showers more than a decade ago.

People, zoo animals flee Minnesota city flooding

DULUTH, Minn. (AP)—Jeb, the black and brown dwarfed goat at Lake Superior Zoo, sought out Brad Jago every day for a little love, attention and a gentle scratch on the forehead where his horns once stood. On Wednesday it was Jago seeking Jeb, as the groundskeeper and the rest of the zoo staff scrambled to find and recapture animals that escaped during torrential overnight flooding that forced the evacuation of some homes in a low-lying neighborhood in the port city of Duluth. Zoo workers safely recovered two seals and a polar bear that had managed to escape their enclosures but Jeb and a dozen or so other animals from the zoo's barnyard exhibit—including other goats, sheep and a miniature donkey—drowned. "That was a tough loss," said Jago, one of several employees who spent Wednesday afternoon grieving and regrouping after the exhausting search that began before dawn.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

AUCTION NOTICES

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all the rights, title and interests of NMHC in and to the following described real property will be sold at auction:

LOT NO.:	001 C 57	MORTAR LN., SAN ROQUE, SAIPAN	**MINIMUM BID:**	$68,230.00
LOT NO.:	006 T 18	SAN JOSE VILLAGE, TINIAN	**MINIMUM BID:**	$56,219.36

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on June 26, 2012, subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Minimum Bid. The minimum acceptable bid for each property shall be $(please see above).
2. Reserve. The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of NMHC as Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, NMHC shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw any property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Acting Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facisimile: 234-9021; or to Law Office of Vicente T. Salas, P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale by cash, cashier's check or credit card (Visa or Mastercard). The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will automatically revert to NMHC.
6. Change of Terms. NMHC reserves the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of NMHC in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property or any related documents will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.
8. Lease with Option to Purchase. NMHC gives notice that it will also consider bids or offers to lease the property, subject to the following additional terms and conditions:
   a. The Lease Price bid shall not be less than the listed Minimum Bid price.
   b. An up-front payment of ten percent (10%) of the Lease Price must be paid upon award by cash, cashier's check or credit card (Visa or Mastercard).
   c. The balance of the Lease Price shall accrue interest at six percent (6%) per annum.
   d. Monthly payments of the Lease will be considered rental payments only and not installments toward purchase and shall not grant the lessee any equity or ownership interest in the property or be construed in any way to encumber NMHC's rights, title and interest in the property beyond the granting of a lease for a specific term of years.
   e. Maximum acceptable Lease term shall be thirty (30) years.
   f. A lease agreement will be given upon receipt of the up-front payment and shall include:
      i. No alterations or improvements without the prior written consent of NMHC.
      ii. Lessee to insure property and improvements during the Lease term.
      iii. Lessee responsible for all utilities and other charges associated with the property.
      iv. Lease not to be assigned or mortgaged without prior written consent of NMHC.
      v. Failure to make a monthly payment grounds for termination and eviction.
      vi. Lease may, at the request of lessee, contain an Option to Purchase provision exercisable upon: (A) payment in full of the Lease Price; (B) the Lease not having been declared to be in default; and (C) payment of $100.00 option consideration. If the option is properly exercised, a quitclaim deed will be given.
   g. In the event of competing lease bids, greater weight will be given to the leasehold offer with the better price, shorter term and larger monthly payments.

Dated this 23rd day of May, 2012.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios, Acting Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS for Terminal Improvements, Phase I at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-TA-002-08 will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP, 96950,

All Bids shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: Tinian International Airport, Terminal Improvements, Phase I, Project No. CPA-TA-002-08 and must be submitted no later than **2:00 PM on FRIDAY, July 13, 2012** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to, demolition, building and site improvements, including concrete foundations, concrete slab-on-grade, cast-in-place concrete, roof membrane, metal roofing, thermal insulation, concrete masonry unit walls, non-structural metal framing, carpentry, gypsum board, ceramic tiles, resilient flooring, acoustical ceilings, aluminum doors and frames, aluminum windows, glazing, cabinetry, toilet partitions, toilet accessories, painting, ventilation, air conditioning, plumbing, electrical lighting and power, complete and ready for use all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from CNMI Capital Improvement Program. The Contract award, if it is made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days of the receipt of Bid Proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold such Bids in effect for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of Bid opening.

The Contract period for construction of the Project in its entirety shall be One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days. Liquidated damages in the amount of Three Hundred Dollars ($300.00) shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that completion of the Project is delayed beyond the Contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low Bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." The review will include, but is not necessarily limited to, previous projects experience, financial capability, quantity and quality of equipment and personnel, and ability to secure bonding and insurance. If the apparent low Bidder is found to be not "responsive and responsible", their Bid will be rejected and the next lowest Bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the Project shall be paid not less than the minimum wage rate established by CNMI Law or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract. A copy of the CNMI Minimum Wage Rate Determination is included in the General Provisions, Section 70-25.

Each Bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the Bid Proposal documents, with submission of their Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents, including Drawings and Specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, upon payment of TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS ($200.00) for each set of documents in electronic form, including the Bid Schedule. The payment is non-refundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal Money Order made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at CPA, Conference Room, Tinian International Airport, at **10:00 am, FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 2012**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this Project. All prospective Bidders are required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Bid Proposals shall be submitted on the Bid Schedule form included on the CD-Rom obtained from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all Bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding Bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the Bid Schedule or misentry of the quantity of line items; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the Project Contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said Bids if, in its sole opinion, to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each Bidder must supply all information required by the Bid Proposal documents and Specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the Specifications. Bid Proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority office.

A Contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the Specifications. To be eligible for award, each Bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit Bids in response to this Invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin in consideration for an award of any Contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each Bid shall be accompanied by either a Bid Bond issued by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a Certified Check, or a Cashier's Check in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the Bid Price. Checks shall be made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Board Chairman / Contracting Officer

Date: June 11, 2012

Asia

Some restrictions on Ai Weiwei ending

AP

Ai Weiwei, third from right, argues with a policeman, center, outside his home in Beijing Wednesday, June 20, 2012.

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese dissident artist Ai Weiwei will soon be freed from domestic travel restrictions and other demands imposed following his three-month detention last year, but he says he still won't be allowed to leave the country.

A notice Thursday from Beijing's Chaoyang District police headquarters said the year-old restrictions will expire Friday.

Ai was detained April 3, 2011, at Beijing's airport amid an overarching crackdown on dissent. Following his release on June 22 of that year, he was stripped of his passport and required to be constantly available for questioning.

Ai told The Associated Press that the police—citing ongoing investigations—would return the passport only on the condition that he not travel abroad.

"I feel this is still an illegal practice," Ai said.

Following Ai's release last year, his design company was presented with a 15 million yuan ($2.4 million) bill for back taxes and fines that he has contested. A hearing on Ai's countersuit against the tax office was held Wednesday, but there was no clear outcome.

The irrepressible Ai had been barred from giving interviews or posting online, restrictions he swiftly ignored.

Internationally renowned for mocking, satirical art, the 54-year-old Ai became the highest-profile target in a crackdown to stop Chinese from imitating the democratic uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa. Dozens of rights activists, lawyers and others have been detained, put under house arrest or disappeared, and several of those who have been released have kept almost totally silent ever since.

Pakistan to elect new PM on Friday

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's president summoned parliament to meet on Friday to elect a new prime minister, with the outgoing textile minister emerging as the likely candidate for the job.

Yousuf Raza Gilani was dismissed Tuesday along with his Cabinet by the Supreme Court for failing to investigate his ally President Asif Ali Zardari for corruption, adding to political instability in a country already saddled with massive economic and security problems.

But in moving quickly to install a new premier—and not defying the court order as some had predicted—the government may reduce fears of major upheaval, at least in the short term.

In a statement Wednesday, the presidency said the national assembly would be convened on Friday afternoon.

A government official confirmed that the purpose of the meeting was to elect a new premier.

Zardari's Pakistan People's Party has the largest number of seats in parliament and is currently in government with coalition partners, which must also support his choice for prime minister to ensure he gets elected. Zardari has been meeting those partners to discuss a candidate.

The official said that Makhdoom Shahabuddin, the outgoing textile minister, was the likely candidate, as did another member of the ruling PPP. They didn't give their names because they weren't authorized to speak on the record about internal party decisions.

Shahabuddin is from Rahim Yar Khan, a conservative Islamic city in south of Punjab province. He is considered a party loyalist and was known to be close to Zardari's late wife Benazir Bhutto, who headed the party but was killed in 2007 by Islamist militants.

Whoever takes over will not have long in power and is likely to face a rocky ride.

The government must call elections before March next year. Under the constitution, polls can only be held under a caretaker government, which must be in place three months before election day. Many analysts have speculated that the current political upheaval may expedite the polls, possibly to November. Elections before that date are considered unlikely because of the fierce summer heat.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Indonesian court to rule on Bali bombing suspect

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—An Indonesian court is expected to issue a verdict Thursday in the case of a terror suspect accused of helping to build the car bomb used in the 2002 Bali nightclub attacks. Sentencing also would be Thursday. Prosecutors want a life sentence for 45-year-old Umar Patek and say he's a leading member of the al-Qaida-linked network Jemaah Islamiyah. He is accused of illegal weapons possession, concealing terrorist acts, immigration violations and premeditated murder in the bombings that killed 202 people on the resort island. Most victims were foreign tourists, including 88 Australians and seven Americans. Patek says he was a minor player and should not get a life term.

New violence in Myanmar kills up to a dozen people

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Officials say up to 12 people have died in new communal clashes in western Myanmar. Lawmakers say the violence broke out Tuesday in Yathetaung township between ethnic Rakhine Buddhists and Rohingya Muslims, who are denied citizenship in Myanmar and are viewed as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. Earlier violence between the two groups left at least 50 people dead and displaced tens of thousands of others.

PH may send ships back to disputed shoal

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Benigno Aquino III says he will send ships back to a disputed shoal once stormy weather clears, if ships from China have not left the area by then. Vessels from the two countries squared off for more than two months at the Scarborough Shoal, a territory off the northwestern Philippines claimed by both countries. However, the Philippines announced over the weekend it would withdraw its remaining two ships because of bad weather, and China later said it would pull out its fishing boats for safety—sparking hopes of an end to the standoff.

World

Pollution rife at Rio enviro conference

Rio de Janeiro (AP)—The throngs streaming into Rio for a sustainable development conference may be dreaming of white-sand beaches and clear, blue waters, but what they are first likely to notice as they leave the airport is not the salty tang of ocean in the breeze, but the stench of raw sewage.

That's because the airport sits by a bay that absorbs about 320 million gallons (1.2 billion liters) of raw waste water a day: 480 Olympic swimming pools worth of filth.

As they head into the city, they will note soda bottles bobbing on the water and the colorful detritus that wreathes the shore: discarded television sets, couches and broken toys snarled in plastic. They will likely get caught in a traffic jam, peering out at the acrid haze of diesel fumes and exhaust from the commercial port that lingers over the city.

The United Nations Environment Program warned this month that the planet's environmental systems "are being pushed towards their biophysical limits," and for the 50,000 visitors from 190 countries streaming in for the U.N. Conference on Sustainable Development, the welcome here is a rank reminder of just how hard it will be to balance economic growth and environmental protection elsewhere across the globe.

"Rio, the host city, has a range of urban problems: air and water pollution, social exclusion, water supply," said Carlos Bocuhy, who heads the Brazilian Institute of Environmental Protection. "But what we have here is a crisis in a civilizational model. We are nearing a moment when all these crises will start feeding into each other. We are facing the possibility of collapse if we don't change course."

The problems visitors will see in Rio alone are daunting. Take the bay. Twenty years ago, when the last UN Earth Summit was held here, promises were made to clean it up. Since then, seven waste treatment stations have been built, but due to poor planning and corruption, only three of them work, and at a fraction of capacity.

Even on Governor's Island, which houses both the international airport and the federal university of Rio de Janeiro, waste water pours unfiltered into the environment. The treatment plant there doesn't work either, said Sandra Azevedo, a biologist with the Carlos Chagas Filho Biophysics Institute.

"We are living here in a time and space warp. We have problems like, `My wi-fi is down,' `I'm stuck on this problem in my stem-cell research,' and at the same time, we are right next to open, running sewage," she said. A five-minute walk separates Azevedo's office from the bay's shore.

Officials delay announcing Egypt election winner

CAIRO (AP)—Officials postponed declaring a winner in Egypt's disputed election on Wednesday, sending political tensions soaring as the country awaited its first new president in three decades.

Adding to the confusion and uncertainty were reports about the health of Hosni Mubarak, who is serving a life sentence for failing to stop the killing of protesters in the uprising that ousted him last year. At one point Tuesday, he was said to be near death, while some believed the report was a pretext by sympathetic allies of Mubarak to transfer him out of prison to a more comfortable facility.

Last weekend's runoff election was long touted as a landmark moment—the choice of Egypt's first civilian president to take over the generals who have ruled since Mubarak's removal on Feb. 11, 2011. Instead, it has turned into a confrontation between the Islamists of the Muslim Brotherhood and the entrenched elements of Mubarak's old regime, including the military.

Thousands of Muslim Brotherhood supporters along with some secular youth revolutionary groups camped out Wednesday night in Cairo's Tahrir Square, the birthplace of last year's uprising, and denounced the military, trying to push back against a series of power grabs by the generals last week.

The Election Commission did not say when it would announce the winner of the runoff between the Muslim Brotherhood's candidate, Mohammed Morsi, and Mubarak's former prime minister, Ahmed Shafiq. Both candidates claim they won, and the commission was supposed to declare the top vote-getter Thursday.

But its secretary-general, Hatem Begato, told the state newspaper Al-Ahram that the winner would be announced Saturday or Sunday.

The commission said the announcement was postponed because a panel of judges must look into about 400 complaints of voting fraud submitted by both campaigns, including lawyers for Shafiq claiming fraud in 14 of Egypt's 27 provinces where they said ballots sent to polling centers were already marked for Morsi, the Muslim Brotherhood's candidate. Morsi's lawyers accused Shafiq of buying votes and being involved in forging lists of registered voters to include soldiers, who are barred from voting, and names of the dead.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Yemen: 31 killed in fighting in south

SANAA, YEMEN (AP)—Yemeni raids on al-Qaida positions have left at least 28 fighters and three soldiers dead, as the government consolidates its hold on recaptured militant strongholds, military officials said Wednesday. The clashes in Abyan and Shabwa provinces are part of a weeks-long offensive against al-Qaida, aiming at uprooting the militant group from large swaths of land the group seized during last years' uprising and the political and security vacuum that followed. Military officials said that at least six air raids targeted moving vehicles and al-Qaida positions in Mahfad, the last stronghold of al-Qaida in Abyan province. The Yemeni military regained control of several al-Qaida strongholds in Abyan earlier this month.

Ex-Romania PM shoots self after court's sentence

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)—A Romanian ex-prime minister shot and wounded himself Wednesday in an apparent suicide attempt, hours after the country's highest court ruled that he must serve a two-year prison sentence on corruption charges, the country's current premier said. Media reports said he had shot himself in the neck. Former Prime Minister Adrian Nastase would be Romania's most senior politician to serve time in prison since the 1989 fall of communism. He had appealed a March 30 court ruling that sentenced him to prison for illegally raising funds for a failed presidential campaign, but the Supreme Court upheld the sentence, sending shockwaves through the country.

Greece swears in new prime minister

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greece moved to end its protracted political impasse Wednesday, swearing in a new prime minister to lead a largely pro-bailout coalition tasked with saving the country's place in the eurozone and easing a European financial crisis with global repercussions. Antonis Samaras, a 61-year-old U.S.-educated economist, became the fourth prime minister in eight months. "I know well the need to restore the dignity of the Greek people that has been wounded," he said. "I know the need for a quick recovery of the economy to restore social justice and social cohesion."

Off the Wall

Fabricated bank adds to China's list of fakery

BEIJING (AP)—In a China awash with fake iPhones, pirated DVDs and knockoff Louis Vuitton bags, rice trader Lin Chunping took fakery to a whole new level: He invented a U.S. bank and claimed he bought it.

The little-known businessman shot to fame in January when state media reported that he had taken over Delaware-based Atlantic Bank. The unprecedented acquisition brought him praise: His hometown gave him a prestigious political appointment and state media called his business experience "legendary."

The only thing that may have been legendary is Lin's audacity. Not only did he not buy Atlantic Bank in Delaware for $60 million as he claimed, but there is no Atlantic Bank in that state.

Chinese reporters could not locate an Atlantic Bank or a bank registration by Lin in Delaware. He's under arrest for an unrelated fraud and has been forced to give up his municipal-level appointment to the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the government's top advisory body.

Lin, who was arrested in early June, could not be reached for comment. But the 41-year-old's short, spectacular rise and fall shows how fakery has evolved in China, morphing from the manufacture of copycat goods to entire institutions and careers.

Lin

Last year, officials found five fake Apple stores in the southwestern city of Kunming. The stores were modeled after the U.S. company's iconic stores right down to the winding staircase and the staff in blue T-shirts.

In early June, local press in eastern Shandong province exposed a fake university. Students who did not score high enough on the national college entrance exam to make it into university received sham admission letters to the Shandong Institute of Light Industry, a real school. The students paid nearly 30,000 yuan ($4,800) over the course of four years to attend classes at the institute.

Weeks before graduation, the students learned they would not get diplomas because they were not officially enrolled at the school but in a private training program that rents space from the institute, according to the report in the state-run Jinan Times. The program organizer had disappeared, the newspaper reported.

Among students, getting ahead by padding resumes or other subterfuge is common.

Zinch China, the Chinese arm of U.S.-based educational networking site Zinch.com, estimates that 90 percent of recommendation letters to U.S. schools are fake, that 70 percent of the essays are written by someone else and that half the transcripts are fabricated. Zinch drew the numbers from interviews with Chinese students, parents and agents.

Experts point to many reasons for the widespread of lack of scruples, from the need to be hyper-competitive to succeed in an over-populated society to an ancient sage who countenanced lying to achieve a higher purpose.

He Huaihong, a Peking University philosophy professor who teaches ethics, takes aim at China's politics, specifically the disconnect between an avowedly communist leadership and the capitalist economy it oversees.

"Jargon left from a century of political revolution is so disconnected with reality that the society is filled with meaningless, empty talk," said He.

Conn. man calls 911 over beef about sandwich order

EAST HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—A man angry that a deli had fouled up his sandwich order decided to take his beef to police.

The man, identified by police as Rother McLennon of East Hartford, called 911 on Wednesday and complained that he "specifically asked for little turkey and little ham, a lot of cheese and a lot of mayonnaise," and the Grateful Deli in East Hartford got it wrong.

"You're calling 911 because you don't like way that they're making your sandwich?" the dispatcher asked.

"Exactly," McLennon replied.

McLennon explained that that the person he was talking to at the deli was not the person who made the sandwich and was refusing to fix the problem.

"I mean, I just want to solve this the right way," he said. "Her sister made it, but she left. They are playing games with me, so I was just wondering if you could come by. I just want it resolved and I want to be able to come back here and get the regular sandwich that I ask for."

Before ending the call, the dispatcher advised him not to buy the sandwich.

Deli owner Tila Azinheira tells WVIT-TV (http://bit.ly/MKi5bR) that McLennon had placed an order for 14 sandwiches and the deli made them to his specifications. She said he was told that because the sandwiches were special orders, the deli couldn't take them back.

Robin cuddles up with Michigan cats

OTSEGO TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—A baby robin is spending some quality time with some friendly cats in southwestern Michigan.

MLive.com reports Karin Caston's cats have accepted the bird, named Peeps, since she found it about two weeks ago in her yard in Allegan County's Otsego Township, 35 miles south of Grand Rapids.

The bird lives in a cage, but spends time nestled in the fur of two of Caston's cats or perched on their backs. A third cat lets the bird walk around it. She tells The Associated Press in an email that she first locked up the cats when she started caring for the bird.

The robin also likes to hang out on Karin Caston's finger. She says the bird is expected to be released at an area park.

AP
In this June 15, 2012 photo provided by Karin Caston, Peeps, a robin, sleeps on Sambo, the cat in Otsego Township, Mich.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

NJ sheriff's office creates 'Facecrook' site

HACKENSACK, N.J. (AP)—A New Jersey sheriff's office has a new website that's looking for arrests instead of friends. "Facecrook" features the names, photos and last locations of fugitives wanted by the Bergen County Sheriff's Office. The site creates a map and users can send anonymous tips to help authorities apprehend those wanted on everything from failure to pay child support to committing murder. Inspector Mickey Bradley tells The Record newspaper he came up with the idea about a year ago and bought the Facecrook address for $17. Users entering the site must agree not to use it to "intimidate or harass another." The site includes a "do not apprehend" warning to discourage people from vigilantism.

Alaska man climbs tree, but gets stuck upside down

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (AP)—An Alaska man had to be rescued after he climbed a tree for exercise but got stuck upside down by one leg. Fairbanks firefighters had to use a ladder truck to reach the 53-year-old man, who was dangling nearly 30 feet off the ground. He was uninjured. Assistant Fire Chief Ernie Misewicz told The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner in an email that the man decided to climb the tree because "it was something he wanted to do." He said the man had spikes and a belt around his stomach, and that he lost his grip and fell backward. The belt slipped below his waist, flipping him over. Authorities were alerted by a friend, whom the man called from a cellphone attached to a lanyard around his neck.

No free beer: Alaska airline modifies promotion

KODIAK, Alaska (AP)—It turns out, there is no such thing as a free beer, at least on Era Alaska flights. The airline had been offering a free 6-ounce beer to adult passengers. KMXT reports the airline discontinued the program Tuesday as a courtesy to the state, which prohibits free alcohol from being used as a marketing tool. However, there is no federal law against it once planes are airborne. The airline will now charge $1 for each glass of Denali Brewing Co.'s "Single Engine Red." Previously, the first beer was free and every beer thereafter was $3. The promotion is scheduled to run through June but may be extended.

ST. JUDE RENAL CARE FACILITY, INC.

Job Vacancy Announcement

DIETITIAN (01)

This position will be under the direct supervision of the Medical Director and must be able to do the following:

- Provides comprehensive nutritional evaluation and counseling services for dialysis patients and staff.
- Provides goal oriented intervention directed toward management of ESRD disease by education of the patient in renal diet and fluid intake management.
- Maintains a close working relationship with the multi-disciplinary ESRD team of dialysis in planning for patients care and attends departmental staff meetings.
- Attends facility in-services, meetings and provides educational programs requested.
- Documents all tasks thoroughly in patient's medical records to maintain dietary records and statistics.
- Establishes yearly goals with Medical Director/Unit manager in relations to specialty program/service.
- Assists in the development, implementation and evaluation of dietary policies and procedures.
- Initiates and/or participates in patient education and treatment programs, such as developing dietary educational materials.
- Participates in professional and other community organizations and activities serving clientele.
- Performs all other duties as assigned.

Education/Experience:
- Holds a baccalaureate or advance degree in food and nutrition or dietetics.
- Has at least one year experience in clinic nutrition.
- Good interpersonal/communication skills.
- Must comply with the law and regulations of the state dietary or nutritional licensing body.

Please submit resume or pick-up application at Saipan Health Clinic, at Chalan Kiya or send email to Connie Aldan or Judy Arriola at hpcshc@pticom.com.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950 · T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
DEPUTY CLERK 1
Office of the Clerk of Court
Superior Court, CNMI Judicial Branch
SAIPAN

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Superior Court is seeking Deputy Clerk 1, Office of the Clerk of Court on the islands of SAIPAN.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: This position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his/her designee. The employee performs work in accordance with established policies, practices, and court procedures. The following are required duties: receives, reviews, and records documents filed for hearings; provides data entry of pleadings onto the court's case management system; provides daily updates of pleadings and other caseload information for assigned judge through the court's automated processes, including but not limited to the document imaging and online filing system; inspects physical and electronic documents submitted to court, including looking for accuracy, proper form, and conformance with court order or court rules; assesses fines, receives and accounts for monies, issues receipts, prepares deposit slips and provides disbursements per court order or requests from customer service window; prepares and maintains physical and electronic file folders for court cases, including tracking of all pleadings associated with individual cases files; serves as a courtroom clerk when court hearings are in session, including but not limited to swearing in of witnesses, logging of all admitted exhibits, tracking all phases of a hearing on an index sheet for the recording counter, operating the electronic recording equipment, and providing continuous monitoring of the recording equipment to ensure the integrity of the record; and, performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS: A high school degree or equivalent plus a minimum of three (3) years related work experience. There is a strong preference for those with work experience in the legal field and those with a Bachelor's Degree. Candidates must possess a valid CNMI driver's license, current police and traffic clearances and be able to demonstrate eligibility to work in the CNMI.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: These are ungraded positions appointed and serve at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. Starting salary will be between $20,485 and $24,950 per annum, commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Application forms may be obtained at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, resumes, proof of high school graduation, along with copies of police clearance and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI may be submitted at: the Judiciary Administrative Office at the House of Justice in Susupe, Saipan, the Superior Court offices on Rota and Tinian or addressed to Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, P.O. Box 502165, Saipan, MP, 96950. This job announcement will remain open until filled. For additional information about the position call (670) 236-9716. This job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950 · T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY MARSHAL

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the Chief Marshal in the Marshal Service Division on Saipan which involves the enforcement and execution of judicial orders and assigned law enforcement duties. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Performs enforcement and execution of court orders and service documents such as jury summons;
- Performs court security duties required for judicial proceedings, protection of justices, judges, court staff, clients, jurors, witnesses, and judicial facilities; assists in the operation of the court's security control monitoring systems;
- Conducts inspection and screening of all persons entering the courthouse and prohibits the entrance onto the court's premises of any items that are restricted or prohibited; provides the public with direction and information on all public services locations within the courthouse;
- Prepares written reports of service and non-service documents, incidents, and other reports as required;
- Performs prisoner handling while awaiting court hearings; escorts prisoners to courtrooms and to holding cells as directed;
- Has knowledge of and follows courtroom directives;
- Completes annually all required training including firearms; complies to all procedures relative to the proper use, maintenance, and security of government issued firearms;
- Performs other duties on the courthouse premises as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent, a minimum of two (2) years experience in law enforcement and/or one year college level education in criminal justice or related field of study. Candidate must provide proof of valid CNMI driver's license, current police and traffic clearances, and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Salary will be $16,652 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, resumes, proof of high school graduation, along with copies of police clearance and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI should be submitted at: the Judiciary Administrative Office at the House of Justice in Susupe, Saipan, the Superior Court offices on Rota and Tinian or addressed to the Judiciary Administrative Office, P.O. Box 502165, Saipan, MP, 96950. This job announcement will remain open until filled. For additional information about the position call (670) 236-9716. This job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

Science & Technology

Microsoft's new tablet risks alienating PC maker allies

NEW YORK (AP)—With the unveiling of the Surface tablet, Microsoft is heading into unusual territory: competing with its partners, the very same companies that make Windows PCs. But Microsoft has little to lose, since PC manufacturers are having little success with their own tablets.

With the unveiling of its tablet this week Microsoft Corp. is taking up the competition with Apple Inc. and its iPad by borrowing a page from Apple's playbook. It is keeping both software and hardware development under the same roof.

"If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, the compliments from Microsoft poured down like a torrential storm on Apple last night," said analyst Brian White at Topeka Capital Markets.

Even Steve Ballmer, Microsoft's famously tough-talking CEO sounded downright Zen and Apple-inspired as he introduced the Surface.

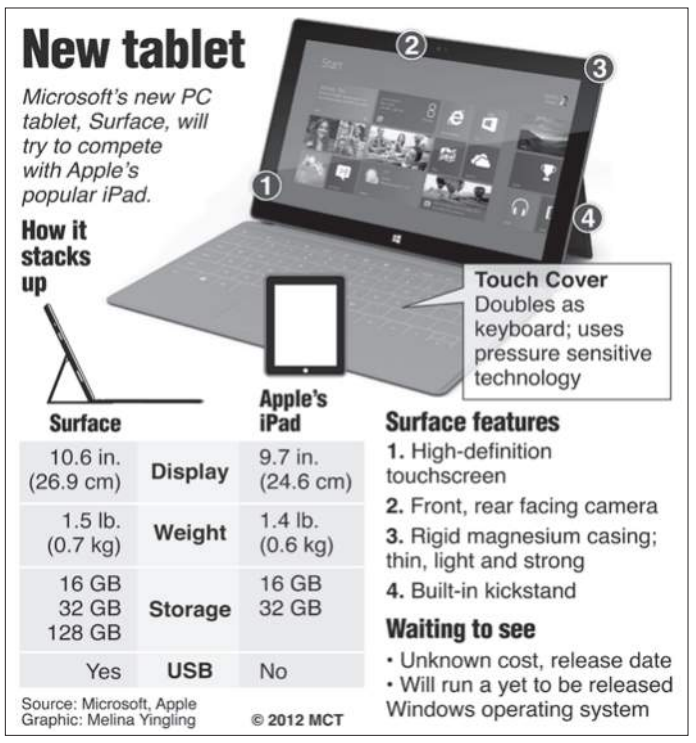
"We believe that any intersection between human and machine can be made better when all aspects of the experience—hardware and software—are considered and working together," he said at Monday's launch event in Los Angeles.

That's a new philosophy for Microsoft, a company accustomed to writing the software, charging loads of money for it, and letting others design the hardware. Microsoft has sold hardware before, most notably the Xbox game console, which is essentially a PC. But when it ventured into the game console market, it wasn't directly treading on the toes of the big PC makers who buy Windows from it. (The exception was Sony, which makes both PCs and PlayStation consoles.)

With Surface, Microsoft faces the challenge of selling the soon-to-be-launched Windows 8 to PC makers who want to make tablets, while at the same time selling tablets directly to consumers.

Rick Sherlund, an analyst at Nomura Securities said Microsoft's hardware partners "are no doubt unhappy" about the prospect of competing with Microsoft's tablets, particularly since Microsoft set a high bar with Surface.

Surface will come in two versions, both with screens measuring 10.6 inches diagonally, slightly larger than the iPad. One model will run on phone-style chips, just like the iPad, and will be sold for a similar price. Another, heavier and more expensive model, will run on Intel chips and be capable of running standard Windows applications.


New tablet
Microsoft's new PC tablet, Surface, will try to compete with Apple's popular iPad.
How it stacks up
Touch Cover
Doubles as keyboard; uses pressure sensitive technology
Surface
Apple's iPad
10.6 in. (26.9 cm) | Display | 9.7 in. (24.6 cm)
1.5 lb. (0.7 kg) | Weight | 1.4 lb. (0.6 kg)
16 GB 32 GB 128 GB | Storage | 16 GB 32 GB
Yes | USB | No
Surface features
1. High-definition touchscreen
2. Front, rear facing camera
3. Rigid magnesium casing; thin, light and strong
4. Built-in kickstand
Waiting to see
• Unknown cost, release date
• Will run a yet to be released Windows operating system
Source: Microsoft, Apple
Graphic: Melina Yingling
© 2012 MCT

Ballmer suggested that Microsoft is making hardware so it can kick-start Windows tablets and make sure they're competitive right from the get-go. But the company's long-term goals are unclear. Will Microsoft keep making tablets, or will it declare victory at some point and leave the field to its hardware partners?

One sign of limited long-term commitment to making its own tablets is that Microsoft will be selling the tablets only from its own stores and website. That might leave space for other manufacturers to sell Windows tablets through Best Buy and other electronics stores.

In Celebration Of His New Life

VICENTE VILLAGOMEZ TORRES

He was born to his Pilgrim Life on September 17, 1941 and
was called by his Creator to his Eternal Life on June 13, 2012 in Boise, Idaho.

His Peaceful Spirit and Memories will continue to live in the Hearts of his:

WIFE: **PRIMITIVA DELEON GUERRERO TORRES**

CHILDREN AND GRAND CHILDREN:

VINCENT DELEON GUERRERO TORRES JR. & ROWINA
(Jesseleo, Ali, Tivana Judy, Vincent III, Jupri & Hunter)
TROY DELEON GUERRERO TORRES
(Colleen Joyce)
JOAQUIN DELEON GUERRERO TORRES & IRENE
(Steven, Tiana, Jacqlene & Joaquin, Jr.)
VICTORINO DELEON GUERRERO TORRES & BRENDA
(Victoria, Maxine, Venetian & Victorino, Jr.)
RALPH DELEON GUERRERO TORRES & DIANN
(Ralph, Jr., Vaniqa Marie, Deon Titus & Tristan Dane)
JUDY MARIE DELEON GUERRERO TORRES & LUCIO
(Lucio)

BROTHER: Ralph Villagomez Torres

He is additionally survived by numerous Cousins, Nieces, Nephews and GodChildren

In his New Life, he now joins his Creator and all the Angels and Saints together with his:

Parents: †Joaquin Torres and Juana Villagomez Torres
Parents In Law: †Victorino Deleon Guerrero and Maria C. Deleon Guerrero
Brother: †Jose Villagomez Torres
Daughter: †Juanet Deleon Guerrero Torres
Sister In Law: †Carmen M. Torres

Daily Mass is offered at 6:00 pm at the St. Jude Church followed immediately by the Holy Rosary except for Saturday the Mass will be at 7:00 am and the Rosary will be at 7:00 pm. On Sunday the Mass will be offered at 6:00 am, 8:00 am and 10:00 am. And the Holy Rosary will be at 7:00 pm. at the St. Jude Church in Koblerville, Saipan.

On Wednesday, June 27, 2012 our Beloved Vicente's remains will arrive at 1:20 am at the Francisco C. Ada International Airport and will immediately be escorted to the Borja's Funeral Home followed by the Holy Rosary.

Funeral Announcement will be provided at a later date.

Thank you, Si Yuus Maase, Olomwaay and Salamat Po
for your Prayers, Thoughts and Support during our time of Bereavement.
May God Bless us All.

Primitiva Deleon Guerrero Torres & Family

Switching email from Windows to Mac

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I'm switching computers from a Windows Vista PC to a Macintosh, and I need to move my emails from Microsoft Windows Mail to the Mac. I want to use a flash drive to transfer the emails, but I've been having problems trying to export or copy the files from Windows Mail. Any thoughts?—Cyndy Albert, Miami

ANSWER: Windows Vista uses an email file format that can be converted to Macintosh Mail by two commercially available programs that run on Windows. Once you convert the Windows Mail files, store them on a flash drive for transfer to the Mac (which can read data stored in Windows format.)

Since I haven't personally used these programs, I can't vouch for their effectiveness. They are "Birdie Windows Mail to Mac Mail Converter," at http://www.tinyurl.com/br3qx29/, and PCVare Software's "Windows Mail to Mac Mail Converter," at http://ww.tinyurl.com/cqldjor/.

MALICIOUS SOFTWARE

Here's what I hope is the last word on what to do before July 9 to avoid being harmed by a malicious software scheme that the FBI foiled.

Several CenturyLink Internet customers asked me to clarify last week's column about the accuracy of an FBI website that tests your computer for the "DNSChanger" malicious software. DNS stands for domain name server, a computer that translates website names into the numeric codes the Internet uses.

The malware hijacks your computer by sending it to bogus DNS web servers that were once run by fraud perpetrators, but have now been taken over by the FBI. It's important to remove the malicious software if your computer has it, because on July 9 the FBI will shut down those bogus servers, leaving infected computers without Internet service.

Some CenturyLink customers questioned whether the FBI website would give them accurate answers about the infection, citing a February posting on CenturyLink's website (http://www.tinyurl.com/7xfwq28) that said the company was rerouting Internet traffic around the bogus servers. The FBI test website says that such rerouting could cause it to tell consumers they have no malware infection when in fact they do.

But CenturyLink says it has solved the problem by updating the way Internet traffic moves.

"We are redirecting DNS traffic away from the malicious sites and sending it to CenturyLink-controlled DNS servers," said Joanna Hjelmeland, a company spokeswoman. "However, recently we made an adjustment to the process and now CenturyLink customers can check whether they are infected at http:///www.dns-ok.us."

Life & Style

WWE superstar John Cena grants 300th Make-A-Wish

UNIONDALE, N.Y. (AP)—WWE superstar John Cena granted his 300th wish to a 7-year-old Pennsylvania boy with a spinal condition, continuing his streak as the most popular celebrity granter in Make-A-Wish Foundation history.

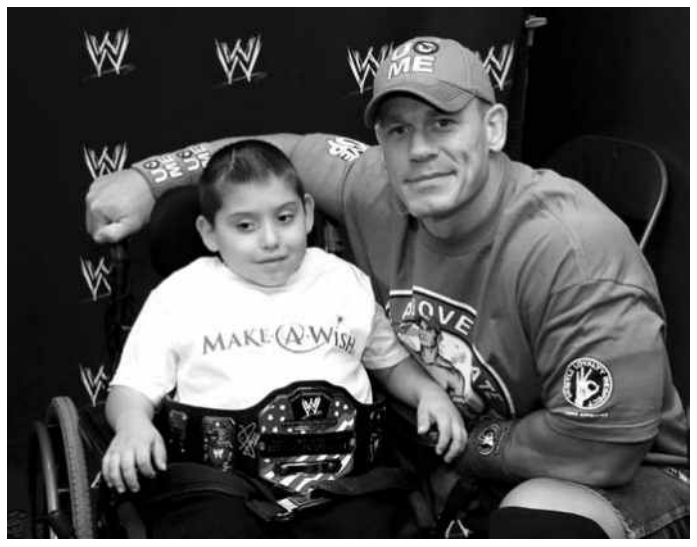
Jonny Littman wanted to meet his hero, and the WWE accommodated that wish Monday night before an episode of "Raw" live from New York's Long Island. But Jonny got a bonus to his wish.

On Wednesday morning, Jonny was being interviewed on "Good Morning America" when Sam Champion asked him about his green T-shirt. After Jonny told him it was John Cena, Champion asked if anyone knew the WWE Superstar.

The pro wrestler and actor walked out to Jonny's surprise and presented him with another gift. This time it was tickets for him and his family to attend the 1,000th episode of the WWE show.

To put Cena's 300 granted wishes in perspective, Michael Jordan has granted around 200 and Kobe Bryant is in the 100-wish range.

"I truly give hats off to Make-A-Wish for keeping statistics," Cena said Monday before the show. "They had a nice little celebration for me at 200, and I humbly said we should do it at 1,000.



AP

In this Monday, June 18, 2012 photo, seven-year old, Jonny Littman, poses with WWE superstar, John Cena, at the 300th Make-A-Wish for Cena in Uniondale, N.Y.

"We're just getting started," he said enthusiastically.

But Cena was clearly touched by the latest one.

"I'm just flattered completely that I could be the wish," he said.

Jonny, from Hop Bottom, Pa., has severe congenital malformation and spina bifida and uses a wheelchair. He spoke to his hero for a few minutes and took some pictures with him.

He even put on his WWE Championship belt. His mother, Ruth, says his surgeons wore it during his last surgery.

After signing T-shirts and WWE merchandise and presenting him with a videogame system, the superstar graciously walked out of the room. Cena prepared for his featured match, and Jonny and his family waited to go into the Nassau Coliseum for a live televised weekly show, "Raw."

After he left the room, Jonny chanted: "Cena. John Cena. Cena."

Cena is following a WWE tradition of granting wishes. The organization grants about 140 wishes per year between requests to meet WWE Superstars or attend its live shows. The tradition started in the early 1980s with Hulk Hogan being the most requested.

And while these wishes make children with life-threatening medical conditions feel good for the moment, organizers say they also have a lasting effect.

Make-A-Wish CEO David Williams cites cases in which seriously ill children clung to life for weeks and sometimes months in anticipation of the wish. Surveys by his organization found that many doctors and nurses felt the wish had a physical benefit to the patient, and most families said a wish strengthened the entire family at a fragile time.

Museum: Fast action may help save Picasso painting

HOUSTON (AP)—Within minutes of a vandal spray painting a Pablo Picasso painting, Houston museum officials had rushed the valuable artwork into their onsite conservation lab as if it was an injured patient in need of emergency surgery.

"I think that's a dramatic analogy, but I think that's apt," said Vance Muse, a spokesman for the Menil Collection, which owns the more than 80-year-old painting.

The fast action increased the odds of saving the painting, Muse said. The museum's chief conservator has been working on it tirelessly since it was damaged June 13, and the restoration is going very well, he added.

The act of vandalism was caught in a 24-second video posted on YouTube. It shows a man dressed in black holding a stencil up to the work of art and then spray-painting the stencil before ripping it away and walking off. An image of a bullfighter, a bull and the word "conquista," which is Spanish for conquest, is left behind.

Once the man walks away, the person taking the video walks up to the painting, recording the damage. This, plus the fact that the witness happened to film the vandal at the moment he damaged the painting, has some speculating whether the two were working together.

"People have wondered if this YouTube (video) was shot by a bystander who just happened to be there at that moment or if it's more akin to perpetrators, plural," Muse said. "I just don't know. But I hope we find out."

Houston police spokeswoman Jodi Silva said investigators are reviewing both surveillance video from the museum and the video posted on YouTube. When asked if police think the vandal and witness were working together, she said, "We're taking all the information and we're looking at all aspects of the incident."

She would not say whether police have spoken to the witness who shot the video.

Muse, who spoke to The Associated Press by telephone from Berlin, said he didn't have specific details about the restoration process because he was out of the country. However, he believed it was going well.

"Most of the damage, virtually all has been taken care of," he said. "But you have to wait and see."

He also didn't know when the painting, "Woman in a Red Armchair," would return to display.

"Even if the treatment is completed, it would need rest for quite a while," he said. "We would not want to bring it out of the conservation lab prematurely."

2 guilds scrutinize Lohan TV film production

AP

In this Wednesday, May 30, 2012 photo, released by Lifetime Television, actress Lindsay Lohan is seen in her role as Elizabeth Taylor and actor Grant Bowler is seen in his role as Richard Burton in the movie, "Liz & Dick," in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Two Hollywood unions were scrutinizing worker safety and welfare on Lindsay Lohan's TV movie "Liz & Dick" after the actress tweeted that she was exhausted because of long production days.

Larry A. Thompson, producer of the Lifetime movie starring Lohan as Elizabeth Taylor, said Wednesday that no violations were found in one union's review.

The Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists confirmed its representatives visited the production. It said it "will continue to visit" to enforce guild rules.

"We have spoken with representatives from the company, and they are fully aware of their contractual obligations. We will ensure that all applicable penalties will be paid," the guild said in a statement.

SAG-AFTRA would not elaborate, spokeswoman Pamela Greenwalt said.

IATSE, the stage employees union, also was examining production conditions, including the crew's work hours, a person familiar with the review said. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the person lacked authorization to discuss the issue publicly.

A SAG-AFTRA representative "was totally fine with everything" she found during shooting Tuesday at a Los Angeles estate, Thompson said in a statement. He was told there had been no complaints from guild members and that the visit was prompted by "tweets and comments in the media," he said.

Lohan was treated last week by paramedics for exhaustion and dehydration. She posted on Twitter: "Note to self... After working 85hours in 4days, and being up all night shooting, be very aware that you might pass out from exhaustion & . 7 paramedics MIGHT show up."

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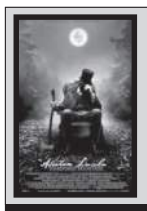
Brave
Friday and Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:55
Sunday thru Thursday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Kelly MacDonald, Emma Thompson
Musical • Rated PG
Synopsis
An impetuous princess discovers that her reckless choice has put both her family and her father's kingdom in peril in this animated adventure from Pixar films. Merida may be the daughter of royalty, but all she wants out of life is to become a truly great archer. When Merida and her mother clash over the willful girl's future, the decisions she makes have greater repercussions that she ever imagined. Now, in order to save her mother's life and bring peace back to the Highlands, Merida will have to face off against the forces of nature and contend with an ancient curse.



Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter
Friday and Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:50
Sunday thru Thursday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Benjamin Walker, Mary Elizabeth Winstead
Fantasy, Action • Rated R
Synopsis
Abraham Lincoln is reinvented as a vampire-killing President in this Timur Bekmambetov-directed action picture. Pride and Prejudice and Zombies' author Seth Grahame-Smith adapts his own book for 20th Century Fox.

Rock of Ages
Friday and Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 10:05
Sunday thru Thursday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Tom Cruise, Diego Boneta, Russell Brand
Musical • Rated PG 13

Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted
Friday and Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:30
Sunday thru Thursday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer
Children's/family • Rated PG

Prometheus
Friday and Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00
Sunday thru Thursday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Noomi Rapace, Michael Fassbender
Science Fiction • Rated R

Snow White and The Huntsman
Friday and Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35
Sunday thru Thursday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Kristen Stewart, Chris Hemsworth
Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Men In Black 3
Friday and Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:45
Sunday thru Thursday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Will Smith, Tommy Lee Jones
Comedy • Rated PG 13
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Natalee Holloway's mother sues National Enquirer

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP)—The mother of Natalee Holloway is suing The National Enquirer, saying the tabloid published untrue stories to profit from her daughter's 2005 disappearance in Aruba.

Beth Holloway said in the lawsuit filed Wednesday that the magazine and its publisher, American Media Inc., published "false headlines, articles and statements" for nearly seven years.

"They keep on doing it," said Lin Wood, the attorney for Beth Holloway. "We had no choice but to file this lawsuit. This is a mother who has exercised every effort to make sure her daughter is alive."

Natalee Holloway was 18 years old when she vanished during a high school graduation trip to the Caribbean island of Aruba. She was last seen leaving a bar the morning of May 30, 2005 with Joran van der Sloot, a Dutchman who was raised in Aruba.

Holloway's body was never found and the ensuing searches for her would create intense media scrutiny and worldwide attention. In January, a judge declared Holloway dead.

Wood said Beth Holloway hopes her daughter is still alive. But if Natalee Holloway is not, Wood said, the mother believes Van der Sloot is responsible for her daughter's death, saying the "evidence is overwhelming" against him.

Van der Sloot is the prime suspect in Holloway's unsolved disappearance. He faces extortion and wire fraud charges in Alabama in connection with Holloway's unsolved disappearance in Aruba exactly five years before he killed Peruvian college student Stephany Flores after meeting her in a Lima casino.

Van der Sloot pleaded guilty in January in Peru to killing the 21-year-old Flores.

The lawsuit mentions several articles, including one that claims van der Sloot had a "secret hand-drawn" map to Holloway's grave. The lawsuit also claims the magazine knew statements used in stories were false when they were published.

A call to Boca Raton, Fla.-based American Media Inc. was not immediately returned.

"Defendants purposely avoided learning the truth by, among other things, failing to attempt to interview many individuals who could confirm or deny the things stated in the headlines, articles, and statements and captured in the photographs," the lawsuit said.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages.

American teenager with illness meets K-pop idols

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—An American teenage girl with a serious illness has been able to sing with the South Korean boy band she idolizes.

Donika Sterling on Wednesday told the five-member K-pop group SHINee in Korean that she loved them.

The 15-year-old has Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease, which gradually causes the loss of muscle tissue and slows down parts of the body.

Sterling and SHINee both sang parts of the 2009 song "Ring Ding Dong." She smiled and clasped a bracelet given to her by a SHINee member.

SHINee members told reporters they were extremely touched when Donika said the group's music gives her strength.

Sterling is from Brooklyn and said she hopes to see SHINee again if they have a New York concert.

AP

Donika Sterling from New York, center, poses for the media with members of South Korean pop group SHINee during their meeting in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, June 20, 2012.

Barry Manilow helps Mich. students get instruments

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP)—Some Michigan school students will have Barry Manilow to thank for their musical instruments.

MLive.com reports that the entertainer launched an instrument drive for Grand Rapids schools, offering two free tickets to his show there last week to anyone who donated new or gently used instruments. He kicked off the effort by donating a piano. At last count, 25 instruments were donated.

Music teacher Tamara Baldwin-Raglin was among those who donated. She gave clarinet that she'd had since grade school and says Manilow is an inspiration.

Other instruments received included a keyboard, trombone, oboe, flute and guitar.

The Manilow Music Project provides musical instruments to high schools and middle schools and music scholarships to universities.

Wynonna Judd marries drummer Cactus Moser

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country singer Wynonna Judd has tied the knot.

Her publicist, Todd Brodginski, confirms that she married drummer Cactus Moser in a private family ceremony on Sunday. The wedding took place in Leipers Fork, Tenn.

This is the third marriage for 48-year-old Judd. The couple had been dating since 2009. Judd divorced her second husband, D.R. Roach in 2007 after four years together. She has two children with her first husband, Arch Kelly III.

US Weekly first reported the news.

The Grammy-winning singer first gained fame as part of the duo The Judds with her mother Naomi, before going solo. She has sold more than 10 million solo albums with hits including "No One Else on Earth" and "I Saw the Light."

AP

This April 4, 2011 file photo shows country winger Wynonna Judd from The Judds, performing at the Girls' Night Out: Superstar Women of Country in Las Vegas.

Clooney producing 'August: Osage County' film

LOS ANGELES (AP)—George Clooney is co-producing the film version of "August: Osage County," the Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning play about family dysfunction.

Meryl Streep and Julia Roberts are set to star in the movie as mother and daughter. John Wells plans to direct, with Tracy Letts writing the script based on his own play.

The Weinstein Co. will release the film and says shooting is scheduled to begin in the fall.

"August: Osage County" is the darkly funny story of a family of estranged women forced to come together in their Midwestern home when a crisis occurs. It won five Tony Awards in 2008, including best play.

Clooney will work with his usual producing partner, Grant Heslov.

Unsettling phone call knocks wife out of her comfort zone

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been happily married to my college sweetheart for 20 years. "Mark" is a great husband, a good father, and we are very compatible. He is the kind of man who brings me flowers for no reason, and who'd rather be home cooking dinner with me than almost anywhere. I know he loves me and our children.

Recently, a woman called our house, identified herself as "a friend," and told me Mark has been "playing around" all over town and she thought I should know I was married to a "pervert." She hung up before I could comment. Mark swears he is not, and never has, had an affair.

Of course, I believe the man I have known for 25 years over a complete stranger, but this has been very upsetting. I now question my decision to be a stay-at-home mom and wonder if someone may be out to get me. I have become nervous in crowds, fearful that someone is watching me or us when we're out together. Mark is trying to be there for me and says we will go to marriage counseling or whatever I need.

Abby, I am happy in my marriage. Yet I feel violated, depressed and resentful that a stranger has the power to make me question my own happiness. Can you help me?

SAD WIFE IN NEW YORK

DEAR WIFE: The prank you have described could have been perpetrated by a high school student dialing randomly, or a disgruntled person with a grudge against your husband—or even you—for some imagined slight.

You feel violated because you HAVE been. People can exercise power over us only if we allow it. You have a husband who loves you and a marriage many people would envy. I don't think you need marriage counseling. However, some sessions with a mental health professional might be helpful in putting this unpleasant incident behind you.

P.S. I assume this was a one-time thing. If the calls persist, the phone company and the police should be notified that you're being harassed.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I separated two years ago. For the past year, I have been dating one man exclusively. We have a wonderful relationship that has great potential. Never have there been two people with more in common.

There is one problem. I have no children and he has three. Two are adults—responsible, good people. The youngest, "Erik," is 18, and he's the problem. He dropped out of school, doesn't work, refuses to even try to find a job and doesn't have a driver's license.

Erik has stolen money from me and also from his father to buy drugs and alcohol. Basically, the kid is good for nothing. He doesn't even have any friends left.

My boyfriend realizes his son's problems, but has essentially given up on him. I can't blame him. It has reached the point where I can't even stand to be around the kid. It doesn't look like he'll ever get a life and move on. Please tell me what to do.

AT A LOSS IN NOVA SCOTIA

DEAR AT A LOSS: You and your boyfriend are overdue for a frank discussion. You could have a good relationship with this man if he agrees to insist that his son get counseling and drug treatment. Be firm and do not allow him to sidestep his son's obvious addiction. But if he refuses, you should move on.

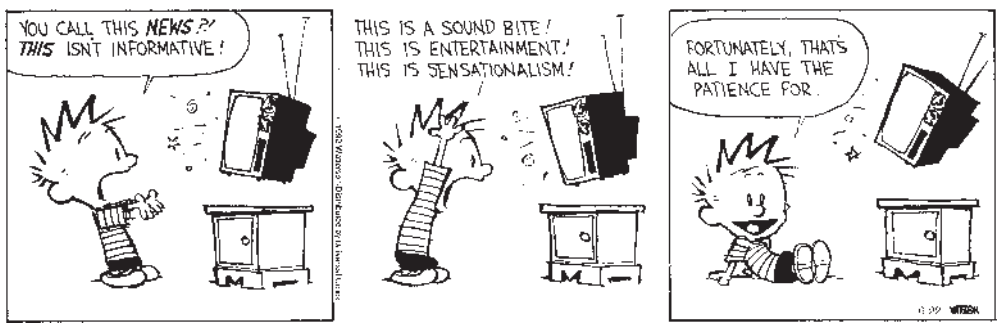
Dear Abby *is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write* Dear Abby *at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


YOU CALL THIS NEWS?! THIS ISN'T INFORMATIVE!
THIS IS A SOUND BITE! THIS IS ENTERTAINMENT! THIS IS SENSATIONALISM!
FORTUNATELY, THAT'S ALL I HAVE THE PATIENCE FOR.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

LIZ ISN'T COMING OVER TONIGHT
HEY, IT'S JUST US GUYS!
UH-OH...
WE CAN RUN AROUND THE BACKYARD IN OUR UNDERWEAR!
LIZ!!!
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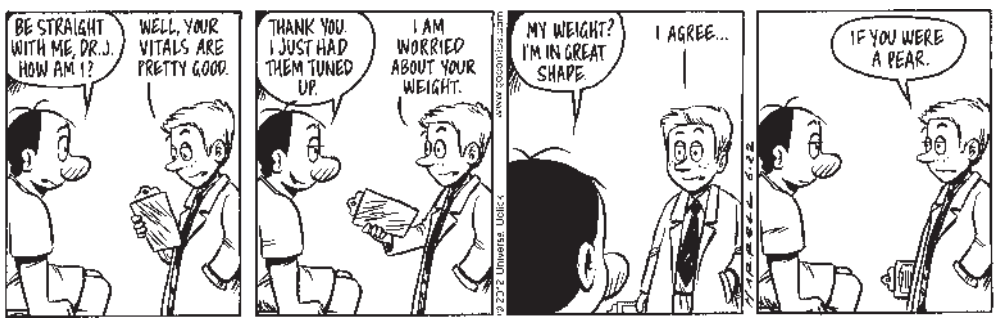
JIM DAVIS 6-22

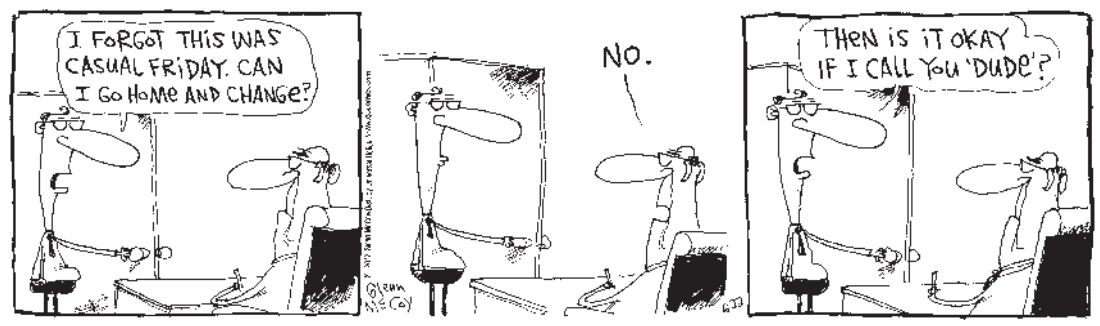
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


BE STRAIGHT WITH ME, DR. J. HOW AM I?
WELL, YOUR VITALS ARE PRETTY GOOD.
THANK YOU. I JUST HAD THEM TUNED UP.
I AM WORRIED ABOUT YOUR WEIGHT.
MY WEIGHT? I'M IN GREAT SHAPE.
I AGREE...
IF YOU WERE A PEAR.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 $ dispenser
4 Twosome
8 Nonsense
12 Pi follower
13 Green land
14 Sandwich treat
15 Escalade, e.g.
17 Troop group
18 Veer
19 Longing
21 Help
22 West Pointers
26 Dangles a carrot
29 Luncheonette order
30 Compete
31 "Time" founder
32 Jane's "Glee" role
33 Lo-cal
34 Tramcar fill
35 "Monty Python" opener
36 Traffic cone
37 Golf bag carrier
39 "— the ramparts ..."
40 Victory
41 Influenza
45 Tarzan's Mrs.
48 Doctor's insignia
50 Bassoon's cousin
51 Bad day for Caesar
52 Matterhorn, for one
53 Zinger
54 Unmatched
55 Crucial

DOWN

1 Curved paths
2 Melt
3 Fashion
4 Ilium's place
5 Wasn't well
6 401(k) alternative
7 Go green
8 Tied
9 Coffee shop vessel
10 Mainlander's memento
11 Parcel of land
16 Mad
20 Corrode
23 Satan's forte
24 One of the Jackson 5
25 Spotted
26 United nations
27 Emanation
28 On the rocks
29 Clear the tables
32 Sign painter's aid
33 Hammerstein's contribution
35 Jr.'s junior
36 Study
38 Nerdy sort
39 Utah city
42 Mountaintop
43 Whine
44 Get a glimpse of
45 Occupation
46 "The — Daba Honeymoon"
47 Neither mate
49 Big bother

Solution time: 25 mins.

G	U	M	P	■	A	M	O	R	■	P	O	T
A	R	E	A	■	D	E	L	I	■	A	B	A
P	A	S	S	W	O	R	D	S	■	S	O	L
S	L	A	T	E	S	■	■	E	A	S	E	L
■	■	■	A	B	■	C	A	R	I	B	■	■
L	I	P	S	■	A	L	L	■	M	O	R	E
I	M	A	■	B	O	O	■	■	O	A	K	■
U	S	S	R	■	E	V	E	■	S	K	Y	E
■	■	S	I	D	L	E	■	P	H	■	■	■
S	L	O	P	E	■	■	P	E	R	U	S	E
L	I	V	■	P	A	S	S	P	O	R	T	S
O	R	E	■	T	H	E	A	■	U	S	E	S
W	A	R	■	H	A	T	S	■	D	A	M	E

Yesterday's answer 6-22

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			16					■	17			
18						■	19	20		■	■	■
■	■	■	21			■	22			23	24	25
26	27	28			■	29			■	30		
31				■	32			■	33			
34			■	35			■	36				
37			38			■	39			■	■	■
■	■	■	40			■	41			42	43	44
45	46	47		■	48	49						
50				■	51				■	52		
53				■	54					55		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Carson Daly, 39; Cyndi Lauper, 59; Meryl Streep, 63; Todd Rundgren, 64.

Happy Birthday: Show off a little and let people know what you have to offer. Do your own thing and you will prosper. Secret information and dealings will add a little adventure to your life. Don't limit the possibilities; if you can dream it, you can make it a reality. Focus, envision and make things happen. Your numbers are 3, 16, 24, 27, 31, 35, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Experience will pay off now. Job opportunities and updates to your resume will lead to professional satisfaction. Make time to do something unusual with someone whose company you enjoy. A change is overdue, but it mustn't be forced. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Information that troubles you emotionally must not be allowed to push you in a direction that will cause impulsive and irreversible actions. Think about the pros and cons and the long-term effects to find a solution that favors you. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Discuss your ideas with someone who has something to contribute. Look for obscure ways to utilize your skills. A trip will help you see your situation and plans from a different perspective. Romance is likely, but it may be superficial. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't shy away from doing things differently. Using your imagination to come up with a unique approach to whatever you are doing will bring you positive recognition. Someone you think you know will withhold personal information. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Your way of doing things may be different, but once you get moving, onlookers will want to participate in your plans. Travel to destinations that will feed your imagination and inspire you to follow your own path. Be a leader, not a follower. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): A financial or professional decision may be forced on you. Consider what it will take to maintain balance and keep your current position secure. A change at home may not be welcome, but it can help resolve pending problems. Do your own fact-finding. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): An adventure, trip or conversation will benefit you. Your creative intuition can lead you to a better position. Love and romance are in the stars, but you may have to make the first move. A change in a partnership will be liberating. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Complaining won't lead to gains. You must control your situation to win. Sharing your creative ideas and plans will convince others to support your efforts. A change at home will heighten your imagination. Budget wisely. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Risk-taking is right up your alley. Real estate, home improvement or making changes to your current living arrangement will benefit you financially. A partnership will open a window of opportunity personally or professionally. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Listen to what others have to say and take in all of the information you can without revealing too much about your own plans. Contributions made by others will lead to your own future prosperity if you act on what you discover. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Deciphering what others are telling you will lead to a better understanding of who you are and what you want. Love and romance, along with a home life more conducive to your needs and welfare, are within reach, if your motivations are honorable. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Take a step back and observe what everyone else is doing. You will discover a way to use your creativity and skills to get ahead. Don't make a decision that will force you to commit to anything or anyone. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are fun-loving, adventuresome and curious. You are outgoing and helpful.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			4		2			
	6		7		9		3	
		4				1		
6	9			2			4	7
4	5			7			6	1
		9				4		
	2		5		6		9	
			1		3			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	3	9	4	2	7	6	5	1
6	1	4	8	5	3	2	9	7
2	7	5	1	6	9	3	8	4
3	2	6	5	7	8	1	4	9
7	9	8	3	1	4	5	6	2
5	4	1	6	9	2	7	3	8
4	8	2	7	3	5	9	1	6
1	5	7	9	8	6	4	2	3
9	6	3	2	4	1	8	7	5

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

RED VELVET CAKE **Solution: 7 letters**

P	R	L	R	E	D	D	I	S	H	X	E	F	D	D
T	I	T	A	E	B	S	U	O	I	C	I	L	E	D
E	C	E	V	Y	B	U	R	M	I	L	I	C	S	N
E	H	R	C	I	E	V	O	L	L	C	O	O	S	E
W	E	S	R	E	N	R	S	E	I	R	E	L	E	L
S	E	T	G	E	S	E	D	N	A	V	Z	O	R	B
T	Ⓟ	D	O	G	D	E	G	T	B	A	I	R	T	Y
O	Ⓐ	E	D	O	E	W	E	A	T	A	S	T	E	A
P	Ⓝ	E	C	I	R	P	O	H	R	S	K	T	N	D
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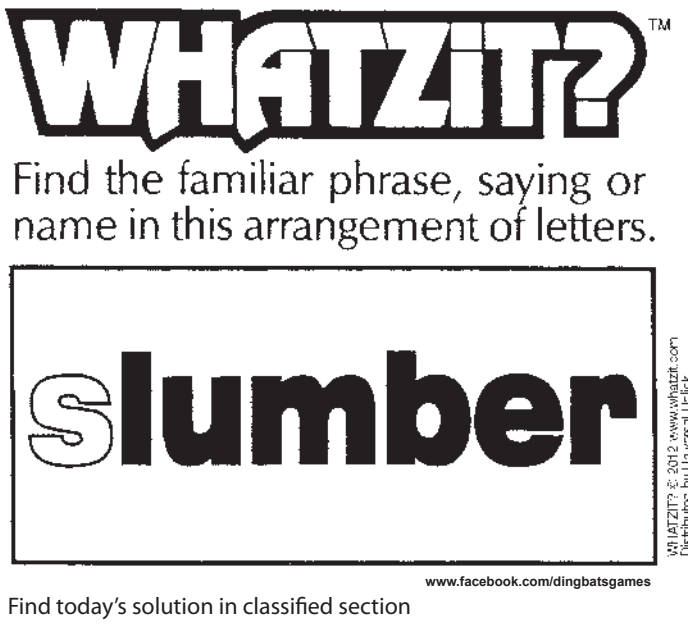

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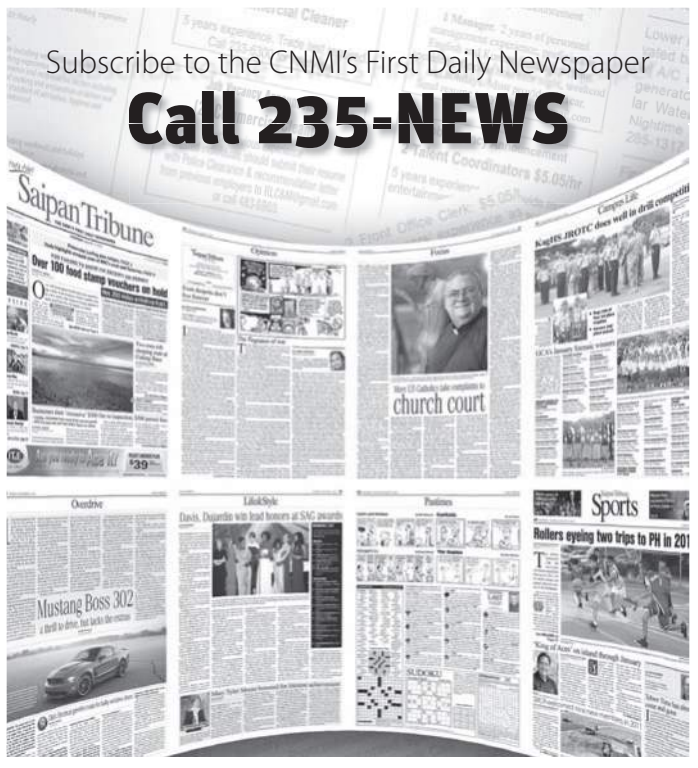

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LeBron, Heat on brink of a title

AP

Miami Heat small forward LeBron James, rear left, and shooting guard Dwyane Wade, right, talk with point guard Mario Chalmers during practice, Wednesday, June 20, 2012, in Miami. The Heat play Game 5 against the Oklahoma City Thunder on Thursday.

MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James has never been here before.

He's been in nearly every imaginable situation everything over his nine seasons marked by three MVP awards, three trips to the NBA Finals with two teams and one decision that changed everything.

And now this: For the first time, he's one win from a championship.

"I have a job to do," James said Wednesday. "And my job is not done."

The job might get done Thursday night, when the Miami Heat—up 3-1 in this title series—host the Oklahoma City Thunder in Game 5 of the finals. Even after leaving Game 4 late with a cramp, James is on the cusp of finally becoming a champ. He was swept in his first finals trip in 2007, then he and the Heat fell in the 2011 title series in six games.

After countless ups and downs, the 804th game of his career may be the one that ends his title quest.

"I have no idea what I'll say before we go out there," said James, who got treatment against Wednesday but said soreness that followed the cramps in his left leg was easing. "It kind of just comes to me when I'm getting ready to go out there and stand on the floor. But hopefully whatever I say will inspire our guys to go out and give a good show."

James joined the Heat in 2010 after Miami convinced him that he would have enough help to win a championship—more specifically, that he wouldn't have to carry the load by himself, like he did so many times in Cleveland over his first seven seasons. The Heat were keeping Dwyane Wade, adding Chris Bosh and filling out the roster with a mix that would be best described as unconventional.

If that axiom—more options are better—actually needed to be proven, it was done in Game 4. James could not finish the game, though he returned after the first wave of cramps hit and delivered a key 3-pointer. With James watching the final minute, Wade and Mario Chalmers helped close out the Thunder, Miami winning 104-98 to move one win away from the franchise's second championship.

"This team, I think we understand that the moment is the biggest thing," Wade said. "We're excited about the possibility of playing better, doing things better defensively, but also offensively. We don't feel like we've played our best game yet, and we feel that's still to come."

The Thunder expect the same from themselves. At least, they hope that's the case.

No team in finals history has successfully rallied from a 3-1 series deficit, or even forced as much as a Game 7 when presented with that scenario since the league went to its current 2-3-2 finals format in 1985. But Oklahoma City's losses in this series—in each of the last three games—have come by four, six and six points, respectively.

A play here, a bounce there, this series might look a whole lot different. And that's why the Western Conference champions are conceding nothing.

"We didn't get here just to make it here and say we did," Thunder star Kevin Durant said. "We made it to the finals. We want to come in here and we want to try to get a title. It's all about keep competing until that last buzzer sounds, and that's what we're going to do. That's the type of city we play for, a city that never gives up. That's the type of team we are. We're going to keep fighting, keep fighting, and we'll see what happens tomorrow."

Russell Westbrook scored 43 points for the Thunder in Game 4—and they were for naught. It was the second time in these playoffs that someone had scored at least that many against the Heat. And like Boston's Rajon Rondo, who dropped 44 on Miami in the Eastern Conference finals, Westbrook walked off the court with a loss.

"I can't really be too happy about what I (did) because we didn't win," Westbrook said. "It doesn't matter. There's probably a lot of different guys that put up so many points or so many amount of rebounds, and nobody remembers it. The only thing that people remember is if you won the championship, and that's all that matters."

It might take more than leg cramps to keep James off the court for too long in Game 5.

He was his usual self in practice on Wednesday, laughing with teammates while shooting a few free throws, looking at ease. And most importantly to Miami, he was moving without too much pain.

James had to be carried off the court in the fourth quarter of Game 4, unable to walk to the bench. A lot of fluids and rest later, some of the bounce was back in his step on Wednesday.

I feel a lot better than I did last night. That's clear," James said. "I'm still a little (sore) because of the muscles just kind of being at an intense level, very tight. I'm still sore. I was able to get some treatment last night. I was able to get some treatment this morning. ... And also with the game being basically at midnight tomorrow night, I have all day tomorrow, too, to prepare. I should be fine by tomorrow night."

It's a 9 p.m. tipoff, actually, but the point is made.

By Thursday night, James will be ready for the championship stage. And so will his team. What started on Christmas Day in Dallas, watching the Mavericks hoist the banner that will forever commemorate their championship celebration on Miami's home floor last year, could end as the perfect turnaround story for the Heat.

"You've got to absolutely immerse yourself into the process and the focus," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "It's Game 5. We want to treat it as a Game 7. But we are preparing for Game 5 to protect our home court and to take care of that business. It's been well documented the experience we went through last year and the pain and all that. It doesn't guarantee anything. Experience is a great teacher. You know, hopefully all those experiences will help us."

James says they've already helped him.

He could not have seemed more relaxed on Wednesday. The chance he's waited nine years for comes on Thursday night, and James appeared totally comfortable in anticipation of that moment.

I've experienced some things in my long but short career, and I'm able to make it better of myself throughout these playoffs and throughout this whole year, and that's on and off the court," James said. "I'm just happy that I'm able to be in this position today and be back in this stage where I can do the things that I can do to make this team proud, make this organization proud, and we'll see what happens."

Down 3-1 to Heat, Thunder promise to keep fighting

MIAMI (AP)—Down 3-1 in the NBA Finals, history says the Oklahoma City Thunder aren't coming back.

Nobody has ever rallied from that deficit in the finals. Then again, few have erased a 2-0 deficit in any playoff series, and the Thunder did that just one round ago when they charged past the San Antonio Spurs.

So don't write off the Thunder just yet.

"We didn't get here just to make it here and say we made it to the finals. We want to come in here and we want to try to get a title," Kevin Durant said Wednesday. "It's all about, keep competing until that last buzzer sounds and that's what we're going to do. That's the type of city we play for, a city that never gives up. That's the type of team we are."

The Miami Heat can wrap up their second NBA title with a victory Thursday in Game 5. If the Thunder win, they would get the series back to Oklahoma City, where they are 9-1 this postseason.

"We're not going to give up," Durant said, though his quiet tone sounded more hopeful than defiant. "We're going to keep fighting to the end and hopefully we can take this thing back to the crib."

That became a little tougher after James Harden bruised his left hand during the Thunder's 104-98 loss on Tuesday. Already struggling through two miserable games in Miami, Harden sat out a portion of practice Wednesday to ice the hand but is expected to play Thursday.

The NBA's Sixth Man of the Year has shot 2 of 10 in both games in Miami, falling to 13 for 37 (35 percent) in the series. He is averaging 10.8 points, six below his regular-season average.

"It's definitely frustrating when those shots get open and don't go in, but you've got to continue to play," Harden said. "Especially for a player like me, I rely on more than just shooting, on just scoring the basketball. Obviously that aspect of my game has to be picked up in order for us to win games."

Oklahoma City has had stretches where it clearly looks like the better team. The Thunder scored 58 second-half points in their Game 1 win, opened a 10-point lead in the third quarter of Game 3, then burst to a 17-point cushion in the first 11-plus minutes of Game 4.

Yet they've also had moments where their inexperience shows, both on the court and in the coach's box. Coach Scott Brooks was criticized for keeping Durant and Russell Westbrook on the bench together too long in the third quarter of Game 3, and center Kendrick Perkins seemed to question his rotation pattern in Game 4, when Brooks stuck with the subs after the first unit's quick start.

"I don't think the game comes down to who plays and who doesn't play. It's how we play," Brooks said. "And I think the last couple of games, they made a few plays that we did not make, and it always comes down to that. When the game comes down to a two-minute game, that's all you can do is put yourself in that position and hopefully we can make those plays to win the game."

Westbrook was sensational in Game 4 with 43 points and Durant scored 28, but the Thunder couldn't put another player in double figures. Durant insisted when the series started it was not just he and LeBron James, but about the Thunder and the Heat.

The Heat have stepped up to support their superstar more, with Shane Battier scoring 17 points in each of the first two games, and Mario Chalmers coming up with a series-high 25 in Game 4.

Durant said he still has confidence in his teammates.

"If we miss a few shots, so what? We're going to keep going back to them. That's what teammates do," Durant said. "But I'm going to keep being me. If I see a shot, I'm going to take it, and I'm going to keep trying to go at these guys. But I have faith in my teammates no matter what. I never think it's too late."

The Thunder's situation against the Spurs seemed as bleak as the one they face now. San Antonio had won 20 straight games after winning the first two of that series, forcing the Thunder to win four times in five games against a team that hadn't lost three in a row all season.

Instead, the Thunder needed only four games, becoming just the 15th team to win a series after trailing 2-0.

"We were down and everybody said the series is over," Westbrook said, "and then we came back and won the series."

So don't tell the Thunder they can't do it again.

"You know, this group of guys never give up, regardless of what happens," Westbrook said. "We've been through many different situations throughout this playoffs. Just another task for us. We've just got to be ready to play for the next game."

Heyward hit 2 homers, Braves outslug Yankees

NEW YORK (AP)—Jason Heyward hit two of a record nine homers at the new Yankee Stadium as the Atlanta Braves beat the New York Yankees 10-5 in sweltering heat Wednesday.

Freddie Freeman, Martin Prado, Heyward and David Ross all connected off Phil Hughes (7-6) to build a 6-1 lead in the interleague game.

Michael Bourn stole what might've been another home run from Jayson Nix after missing an earlier opportunity for an attempt at a leaping grab.

Alex Rodriguez hit his 640th career homer, and Robinson Cano, Derek Jeter and Eric Chavez all hit long balls against Tommy Hanson (8-4). The Yankees managed little else in their second straight loss after a 10-game winning streak.

The Yankees got within a run at 6-5 on Curtis Granderson's RBI single in the seventh but Rodriguez ended the inning with a double-play grounder.

AP

Atlanta Braves' Dan Uggla (26) greets Jason Heyward at the plate after Uggla scored on Heyward's eighth-inning, two-run home run during a baseball game at Yankee Stadium in New York, Wednesday, June 20, 2012. On-deck batter Andrelton Simmons is at left rear.

Nationals 3, Rays 2

In Washington, Stephen Strasburg struck out 10 to win a fastballers' pitching duel, steering Washington past Tampa Bay.

Strasburg (9-1) won his sixth consecutive start by allowing two runs over seven innings while throwing 111 pitches, the second most in his career, while Tyler Clippard picked up his 10th save. The Nationals needed all the pitching they could get — because the lineup didn't produce a hit after the first inning.

Strasburg did just a bit better than Rays starter Chris Archer (0-1), who dominated over his final five innings after a rough start in his major league debut.

The Nationals had lost their previous four.

Mets 4, Orioles 3

In New York, the Mets' shutout streak was extended to 29 innings and despite a late Baltimore rally, that was enough for New York to complete a three-game sweep.

Mets starter Dillon Gee (5-5) had given up only a single and the hosts looked like holding the Orioles scoreless for a third straight game, but Baltimore got three runs over the final two innings.

New York closer Frank Francisco escaped a jam in the ninth for his 17th save in 20 chances.

Baltimore starter Brian Matusz (5-8) dropped to 0-7 in interleague play.

Angels 6, Giants 0

In Los Angeles, Jered Weaver pitched six scoreless innings in his return from the disabled list as Los Angeles beat San Francisco.

Weaver (7-1) threw 78 pitches in his first start since three weeks out with a back injury.

Giants starter Ryan Vogelsong (6-3) gave up three runs over seven innings in his first regular-season start against the Angels. This was his first loss in almost seven weeks.

Alberto Callaspo, Kendrys Morales and Mark Trumbo all homered for the Angels, who took the rubber game of the interleague series — the first visit by the Giants to Anaheim since the 2002 World Series.

Athletics 4, Dodgers 1

In Oakland, Tommy Milone pitched his first career complete game to steer Oakland past Los Angeles and its seventh win in eight games.

Yoenis Cespedes had two hits and an RBI in his return to the A's lineup, backing another strong start at home by Milone (7-5), who retired 22 of the final 24 hitters he faced and finished Oakland's first complete game of the season.

He improved to 5-1 at the Coliseum with a major league-leading 0.99 ERA at home.

Dodgers starter Nathan Eovaldi (0-3) allowed three runs in six innings.

Indians 8, Reds 1

In Cleveland, Justin Masterson pitched his first complete game this season as AL Central-leading Cleveland finished a three-game sweep of Cincinnati.

Masterson (4-6) took a shutout into the eighth before the Reds ended his streak of consecutive scoreless innings at 18. He did not walk a batter and struck out nine, including the side in the ninth, for his fourth career complete game. Cincinnati's run was unearned.

Asdrubal Cabrera hit a three-run homer and Johnny Damon hit a two-run shot for the Indians in the fifth inning off Bronson Arroyo (3-5). Lonnie Chisenhall added three RBIs for Cleveland.

Cardinals 3, Tigers 1

In Detroit, Jake Westbrook pitched his first complete game in over two years, giving up only an unearned run in St. Louis' victory over Detroit.

Westbrook (6-6) notched his 14th career complete game, but his first since 2010, when he was pitching for Cleveland.

The Cardinals took the lead in the sixth when Yadier Molina broke a 1-1 tie. The Cardinals added an eighth-inning run on an error.

Tigers starter Rick Porcello (4-5) allowed 10 hits in seven innings.

Red Sox 15, Marlins 5

In Boston, David Ortiz hit a grand slam for one of Boston's four homers as the Red Sox set a season high in runs, crushing Miami.

Mike Aviles, Jarod Saltalamacchia and Will Middlebrooks also homered.

The Red Sox pounded out 16 hits and won their fourth straight game, passing Toronto and moving out of last place in the AL East.

The Marlins lost for the 12th time in 14 games despite scoring four runs in six innings against Felix Doubront (8-3).

Marlins starter Ricky Nolasco (6-6) gave up nine runs in 3 1-3 innings.

Brewers 8, Blue Jays 3

In Milwaukee, Yovani Gallardo pitched into the seventh inning and Ryan Braun hit one of Milwaukee's four homers in a win over Toronto.

Gallardo (6-5) went 6 2-3 innings, giving up three runs and seven hits with two walks and seven strikeouts. Gallardo's outing provided some much-needed rest for an overworked bullpen.

Emergency starter Joel Carreno (0-2) gave up a pair of two-run homers to Martin Maldonado and Carlos Gomez, and a solo shot to Corey Hart in a five-run second. Carreno gave up five runs on five hits in three innings.

Edwin Encarnacion hit his 20th home run of the season for the Blue Jays.

Rangers 4, Padres 2

In San Diego, Yu Darvish allowed five hits over eight innings and got his first major league hit to help Texas to its sixth straight win, defeating San Diego.

Darvish (9-4), who struck out eight, leads all big league rookies with nine victories.

Yorvit Torrealba drew a bases-loaded walk with two outs in the sixth to bring in Josh Hamilton with the go-ahead run. The Rangers swept the three-game series.

Dale Thayer (0-2) took the loss for the Padres, who have lost five of six and have the worst record in the majors.

Diamondbacks 14, Mariners 10

In Phoenix, Ryan Roberts hit an inside-the-park home run and Justin Upton added a three-run shot as Arizona equaled a franchise record with six homers during a wild win over Seattle.

Miguel Montero hit a two-run homer, Aaron Hill connected for the third straight game, and Jason Kubel and John McDonald each had a solo shot to match the team record set twice before. Montero had four RBIs.

Twins 2, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Josh Willingham hit a go-ahead homer in the eighth inning to lift Minnesota over Pittsburgh.

Willingham hit a fastball from Jason Grilli (1-2) over the wall in left for his 14th homer.

Jared Burton (1-0) picked up the win in relief of starter Francisco Liriano, who pitched arguably his best game of the season, giving up one run in 6 2-3 innings and striking out six.

Glen Perkins then pitched the ninth for his first save in place of injured Twins closer Matt Capps.

White Sox 7, Cubs 0

In Chicago, Gavin Floyd (5-7) pitched scorelessly into the seventh as the White Sox avoided a three-game sweep in the all-Chicago showdown.

Gordon Beckham homered and matched a career-high by driving in four runs, and the White Sox got an easy win after dropping six of seven.

Beckham saw off Randy Wells (1-2) with a run-scoring single in the fourth and broke it open with a three-run drive in the sixth, making it 6-0.

Royals 2, Astros 1

In Houston, Bruce Chen pitched into the sixth inning on three days' rest and Brayan Pena drove in a run to help Kansas City beat Houston.

Alex Gordon tripled and scored for the Royals, who won the last two games of the three-game set. Thirteen of Kansas City's last 14 games have been decided by two or fewer runs.

Chen (6-6) struck out six in 5 2-3 innings and was charged with one run and five hits.

Phillies 7, Rockies 6

In Philadelphia, Todd Helton missed a tag at first base, allowing the winning run to score in the ninth inning as Philadelphia edged Colorado.

Dexter Fowler had hit a tie-breaking RBI single for the Rockies off Jonathan Papelbon (1-2) with two outs in the top of the ninth, but the Phillies got a clutch, two-out hit of their own in the bottom half.

Colorado's Rafael Betancourt (1-3) retired the first two batters before Ty Wigginton singled. He was brought home by a Hunter Pence double to tie the game again.

Carlos Ruiz was intentionally walked and Shane Victorino's infield single loaded the bases. Placido Polanco hit a grounder to shortstop. The throw to first was a bit high, but Helton caught it and had time to apply the tag but missed, allowing the winning run to score.

BCS commissioners settle on plan for playoff

CHICAGO (AP)—The BCS commissioners are backing a playoff plan with the sites for the national semifinals rotating among the major bowl games and a selection committee picking the teams.

The plan will be presented to university presidents next week for approval.

Once the presidents sign off—and that seems likely—major college football's champion will be decided by a playoff for the first time starting in 2014.

"We are excited to be on the threshold of creating a new postseason structure for college football that builds on the great popularity of our sport," Notre Dame athletic director Jack Swarbrick said Wednesday.

All 11 commissioners stood shoulder-to-shoulder behind Swarbrick, who read the BCS statement from a podium set up in a hotel conference room.

The commissioners have been working on reshaping college football's postseason since January. The meeting Wednesday was the sixth formal get-together of the year. They met for four hours and emerged with a commitment to stand behind a plan.

"I think we're very unified," Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delany said.

The commissioners refrained from providing specifics of the plan in their announcement.

Pac-12 Commissioner Larry Scott did say the two semifinals would be worked into the existing major bowls and the site of the national championship game will be bid out to any city that wants it, the way the NFL does with the Super Bowl.

People with firsthand knowledge of the decision tell The Associated Press the semifinals of the proposed plan would rotate among the major bowls and not be tied to traditional conference relationships.

They also said that under the plan a selection committee would choose the schools that play for the national title.

The people spoke on condition of anonymity because the commissioners did not want to reveal many details before talking to their bosses.

"I am delighted," said SEC Commissioner Mike Slive, who has supported a four-team playoff for years and whose league has won the last six BCS titles. "I am pleased with the progress we have made. There are some differences, but we will work them out. We're trying to do what is in the best interest of the game."

There was some debate about whether to have semifinal sites rotate between the current BCS bowls—the Orange, Sugar, Rose and Fiesta—or link the sites of the games to traditional conference affiliations. By linking sites to leagues Southeastern Conference teams could host games at the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans and Pac-12 and Big Ten teams could host games at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif.

Harvin requests trade, skips Vikings practice

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP)—Percy Harvin was nowhere to be found at the Minnesota Vikings' mandatory minicamp practice Wednesday afternoon, and no one seems to know when the star receiver will be back in purple.

Unhappy with several issues with the team that drafted him in the first round in 2009, Harvin requested a trade, a person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

After participating in a light walk-through practice on Wednesday morning with his teammates, Harvin wasn't present for the full afternoon practice. Head coach Leslie Frazier declined to go into detail on Harvin's absence and said he wasn't sure if one of the team's most important players would be around for the final day Thursday.

"We're going to talk more in detail," Frazier said. "We have a lot of things to talk about."

Vikings GM Rick Spielman said the organization considers Harvin a cornerstone player and will work to resolve any issues that have upset him.

"We have no interest at all in trading Percy Harvin," Spielman said. "We drafted Percy Harvin here. He's a key part of our organization. He's a key part of our football team. Any issues that are out there, or reported, we always handle those internally, and we'll continue to handle those internally."

The situation seemingly came out of nowhere this week, surprising many Vikings players and coaches

Harvin

when Harvin voiced his frustrations with the team Tuesday at the opening of minicamp.

"I just put it this way: There's a lot of different things that have to be sorted out," Harvin said Tuesday. "Just haven't been really happy lately. We've got a couple of things to work on. I'm here in the classroom. We'll go from there."

Harvin declined to go into detail about his grievances. He is due to make $915,000 in the fourth year of a five-year rookie deal. That total is much lower than veterans Michael Jenkins and Jerome Simpson, with neither coming close to his production on the field.

But indications are that Harvin's issues go far deeper than just money. His role in the offense, which diminished greatly last season when the Vikings reached the red zone, and the organization's decision to go into a rebuilding phase coming off of consecutive last-place finishes in the NFC North combined with his modest salary all figure to factor into his mindset.

Requesting a trade now would be a curious move if his main motivation is a new contract. Most players in similar situations first voice their concerns, then threaten to holdout of training camp before going as far as to request a trade.

Harvin did not speak to reporters on Wednesday, but did post a message on his Twitter account.

"Fans I said I have issues to be worked out money not at all being the problem," Harvin wrote...I've (done) everything asked and more..."

Spielman would not say if money was an issue, but also reiterated the organization's approach to signing players to extensions.

"Our philosophy has always been as players enter the last year of their contract we have a history of extending players going into the last year of their contract," Spielman said. "And that's been our history."

Harvin has emerged as perhaps the most versatile and dynamic player on the team. He earned respect in the locker room for his willingness to play through injuries and still produce late in last year's miserable 3-13 season. In May, Harvin showed up at voluntary workouts despite still recovering from shoulder surgery and spoke of asserting himself as a leader and encouraging other players to participate in the team's offseason program.

He caught 87 passes for 967 yards and six touchdowns last season, rushed for another 345 yards and two scores and also returned a kick for a touchdown during a sensational year.

Harvin dealt with migraine headaches and numerous other minor injuries as the result of his punishing style of play, missing one game his rookie season and two in 2010, which brought concerns about his durability over the long term.

He played in all 16 games last season, establishing himself as one of the game's top slot receivers and most dangerous kick returners.

"Percy is a phenomenal player on the field," Spielman said. "And you look at his statistics he had last year and how important he is to this franchise. He's a vital part of us moving forward with this team."

But somewhere between his appearance at team headquarters in May and his return to Minnesota this week, something went wrong for Harvin.

After making the NFC title game as a rookie, the Vikings have taken significant steps backward the last two seasons. They are centering their rebuild on Harvin, Peterson, who is recovering from a torn ACL in his left knee, and second-year quarterback Christian Ponder.

Harvin is far and away Ponder's best option in the receiver corps that includes non-descript veterans Jenkins and Devin Aromashodu, rookie fourth-round picks Jarius Wright and Greg Childs and Simpson, who will be suspended for the first three games this season after being arrested on drug charges while with the Cincinnati Bengals.

After signing tight end John Carlson from Seattle, there has been a lot of talk about the Vikings going to more two tight-end sets to take advantage of him and second-year tight end Kyle Rudolph. That could also be a concern for Harvin, but offensive coordinator Bill Musgrave said he was unaware of any problems Harvin had with the playbook. Musgrave said he planned to get the ball to Harvin even more this season.

"We're looking forward to getting him on the field and as an offense we're looking forward to having a better year," Musgrave said. "That's the bottom line."

Peterson said he hadn't spoken to his friend about it but planned to have a conversation to try to help smooth things over.

"I wouldn't say it's distracting. It's more bothering. It's like, we definitely don't want to lose this guy. ... I'm sure the organization will do what it has to do to keep this guy around," Peterson said. "If it was me, I would make sure that we kept him around. But we'll see."

Frazier said the two sides have to get on the same page by the time the team reports to Mankato for camp on July 26.

"Hopefully, we'll be headed in the right direction when we get to training camp and everyone can focus on getting ready for the Jacksonville game," Frazier said. "That's the way it has to be. We can't afford any outside distractions."

YANKEES

From Page 32

not show up for its match on Monday, while the Masters endured an automatic loss on Wednesday for not having their uniforms ready.

There was a game scheduled last night between the Brewers and the Rep. Ray Yumul D-9ers (0-6); details will be released next week. From there, the season continues at the Tan Ko Field Monday night at 6:30pm when the D-9ers square off against the Fielders.

Yankees 14, Fielders 3

The Northern Yankees broke out to a 5-2 lead after two innings with four runs in the top of the inning primarily off sketchy pitching and the Fielders were never able to climb out of the early hole.

After managing two runs in the bottom of the second frame, the Fielders only mustered one more run later in the sixth inning as the Angles pitching duo of J.P. Sablan and Dave Jones kept them in check from the rubber.

The Angels, on the other hand, moved further ahead, 8-2, in the fifth inning off two hits and a sacrifice fly by Dave Camacho Jr. Gary Cruz also bashed an RBI single, while Frank Robert grounded in a run.

The Angels' top of the order nearly put the run-rule into effect, 12-3, after the next inning with four more runs off three more hits as Cruz bagged a two-RBI single.

They then worked around two more runs in the seventh inning thanks to a clutch two-RBI triple by John Salas with two outs before securing the early decision.

Salas batted 3-for-3 with two RBIs, three runs, and two bases on balls. Cruz went 2-for-3 with three RBIs, a run, and a base on ball. Fielders' Ryan Ada scored twice.

Brewers 5, Fielders 1

Brewers' Clifton Sillil and Darren Pua reached on a bean ball and a free pass in the first inning and both made it home for an early 2-0 lead. Roy Celis helped Pua to the dish with an RBI base smash.

Brewers' Vince Cepeda was very efficient on the mound and nabbed four 1-2-3 innings from the hump until Fielders' John Reyes finally broke the ice for his squad in the fifth frame.

Fielders' Elton Santos came to the mound for Brandon Santos in the fourth inning and got into a little trouble, but escaped with the bases loaded.

The Brewers kept chomping at the bit, however and managed to move ahead, 4-1, in the sixth inning off four hits, including an RBI single by Tin Guerrero.

Brewers' Celis led off the seventh with a double and was brought in by Byron Kaipat, while their hurler Cepeda held strong for a sweet one-hit complete game performance.

Cepeda struck out 13 and allowed zero earned runs with just three walks.

Brewers' Celis batted 3-for-3 with an RBI and two runs.

Ol'Aces 9, Angels 4

The Ol'Aces took an early 2-0 lead in the first inning off of a pair of errors, but Angels' Barry Maratita led off with a hit in the third and made it all the way around to pull his team within a run.

The Ol'Aces then chalked up three runs in the fifth inning off four hits. Mike Iguel drove in Jesus Iguel and Nokki Saralu, while J.D. Dikito brought home Ben Taisacan with a base rip.

Angels' Nunu Kapileo started off the sixth inning with a double and made it all the way home that brought the count to 2-5, but the Ol'Aces responded with four more runs in the bottom frame off another three hits, including a two-RBI single by Saralu.

The Ol'Aces went on to hold the Angels to just two runs in the final stand.

Winning pitcher Juan Iguel struck out four and gave up zero earned runs and six hits with three walks and a hit batsman.

Ol'Aces' Saralu batted 3-for-5 with two RBIs and three runs.

BACK-TO-BACK

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errors in the extended duel to hand the latter the win. The game was tied last, 23-all, before Arago's slice hit the net, moving Galvez a point away from wrapping up the match. Players then traded shots in the ensuing plays before Arago made another miscue with his smash going wide to the left sideline.

It was a sorry loss for Arago, as in the extended second game, he was ahead on two occasions and needed only one point to close the deal, but could not do it.

Arago, who missed last year's finale after losing incidentally to Galvez in the semis, 23-21, 14-21, 14-21, this time advanced to the championship round after beating Sam Jones, 21-14, 21-16. Galvez earned a return trip to the finals after sweeping Guintu in an early rematch, 21-11, 21-16. Guintu managed to save third place after edging Jones in the consolation game, 12-21, 21-17, 21-19.

Completing the men's singles champions were Jexler Caranto and Brandon Talania.

Talania took the men's C crown after surviving Kanata Omori in a three-game finale. Talania dropped the opening game, 16-21, but recovered in the last two, 21-11, 21-16, to steal the title from Omori.

The newly crowned men's C champion also came from a three-game semis win over Dick Koo, 21-16, 11-21, 21-13, to make it to the finals. Omori had an easier semis game, sweeping Son Jae Ok, 21-15, 21-16. Koo joined Talania and Omori in the Top 3 with his 21-16, 21-12 win over Son.

Caranto swept his way to the men's B championship, beating eventual third placer Oh Im Bog in the semis, 21-15, 21-12, and Wowie Abuel in the finals, 21-15, 24-22. Abuel had a free pass to the finals after winning via default over the off-island Rodwealth Espana.

CLOSE

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who routed the former in their first meeting on May 20, 82-30.

In their second encounter, an over confident SMF/DYS seemed headed for another victory as it led MDX/Armatech at the end of each of the first three quarters only to collapse in the fourth and payoff canto.

SMF/DYS, which was in front after three period, 59-54, lost the lead and the game as it was held to four field goals in the finale frame with only D.J. Ong and C.J. Morales making more than 2 points for the team.

In contrast, MDX/Armatech had four different players drilling at least 4 points each. Mark Ogasawara nailed 4 early points, while Dicky Feria, Braylan Floresca, and Karl Aldan combined for the team's last 12 markers. Art Borromeo scored the other 2 points for MDX/Armatech, which outgunned SMF/DYS in the fourth, 18-11, to steal the win.

Ogasawara top-scored for MDX/Armatech with his 14 points, while Jun Fidelino paced SMF/DYS with his 13, but was limited to two free throws in the fourth period.

MDX/Mariana Resort 62, Hi-Five 54

In the first game in the U20 division, MDX/Mariana Resort also had a single-digit winning margin over Hi-Five/POWER to improve to a 3-1 record.

Hi-Five/POWER (1-1) threatened MDX/Mariana Resort in the third period, cutting the deficit to a hair, 44-45, but the latter hang in there with a balance offense in the payoff frame. All six MDX/Mariana Resort players scored in the fourth quarter with Eugene Manglona nailing 5, Ezra Caro adding 4, and the four others contributing at least one basket each.

Hi-Five/POWER fell short in its comeback bid after hitting only four field goals in the finale frame. Only three players lit up the scoreboard for Hi-Five/POWER in the fourth canto.

Caro led MDX/Mariana Resort with his 23 points, while Manglona chipped in 18. Reynald Cabaltica had 14 for Hi-Five/POWER, firing nine in their third-quarter breakaway and scoring 5 straight early in the fourth, but was silenced in the closing minutes of the fourth period. Frank Macahito, who already had 10 after the third frame, also went cold in the fourth, as he was held to 3 points.

AON/Boholano 72, DeMolay 70

The second game in the U20 division was decided by 2 points with AON/Boholano clipping DeMolay.

The win was only the first in three games for AON/Boholano, while DeMolay absorbed its second loss in as many matches.

John Capuyon Jr. scored all but two of AON/Boholano's 19 points in the fourth quarter to lift his team to the close victory over the winless DeMolay. Kobee Mendoza logged the other 2 points of AON/Boholano in the fourth period. Capuyon went on to finish a game-high 28 points, while Mendoza also had double figures with 12.

AON/Boholano led by 7 at the end of the third, 53-47, but DeMolay, behind the baskets of Genesis Mamaril and Julienne Gotengco, kept on closing in. The two DeMolay players combined for 16 points, but still could not power their team to a come-from-behind win, as Capuyon was there to save the day for AON/Boholano. Capuyon knocked down AON/Boholano's first 12 points in the fourth before Mendoza ended the run with a 2-pointer, and then the former had another scoring spree, firing the team's last 5 points.

First Game

MDX/Armatech 72 – Aldan 23, Ogasawara 14, Feria 12, Floresca 9, Deocares 8, Borromeo 4.

SMF/DYS 70 – Fidelino 13, Ong 12, Darag 12, Iglecias 10, Morales 8, Admana 4, Venus 2, Venezuela 2.

Scoring by quarters: 11-15, 26-36, 54-59, 72-70.

Second Game

MDX/Mariana Resort 62 – Caro 23, Manglona 18, Cadiang 6, Ano 6, Palacios 5, De Leon 2.

Hi-Five/POWER 54 – Cabaltica 14, F. Macahito 13, Urbano 7, Cristobal 6, Atalig 6, Fleming 2, Aldan 2, G. Macahito 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-15, 34-26, 45-44, 62-54.

Third Game

AON/Boholano 72 – Capuyon 28, Mendoza 12, Escalada 9, Javier 7, Regis 7, Palacios 5, De Leon 3, Hemley 2, Sanarez 2.

DeMolay 70 – Gotengco 15, Yap 11, Mamaril 10, Factor 8, Madreo 8, Mendiola 7, Ogumoro 6, Leung 3.

Scoring by quarters: 13-12, 31-30, 53-46, 72-70.

CNMI

From Page 32

Yna Poquiz, Renita Fleming, Chevy Alipio, Krizel Tuazon, and Chloe Salvosa, failed to win a single game in the six-nation tournament, but showed significant improvements in each match.

They lost to eventual champion Japan, 0-25, limited North Korea to 11 goals, and held Chinese-Taipei scoreless in the first half before bowing, 0-2. After playing three straight games, the Commonwealth bets took a day off with two games left in their schedule. The CNMI then faced eventual runner-up China and lost anew, 0-14, before stepping up against South Korea, limiting its foe to seven goals.

"Whether the final ranking is good or bad, I want to say that it is quite a good and precious opportunity for us to communicate with and learn from other Asian teams," Tang was quoted as saying in an interview with AFC.

"It was the first time for our girls to play football matches with their Asian peers. Although the first match with Japan was such a horrible experience, we did better in the remaining matches of the competition and that made me satisfied with the whole team's performances," added Tang, who believed the team will play better in future tournaments after gaining experience in China.

Meanwhile, Northern Mariana Islands Football Association also had all praises for the team and its officials for representing the CNMI in the AFC event.

"I know all of you represented CNMI well. This is the toughest group within entire Asia as Japan, China, DPR Korea, and South Korea are all World Cup-caliber teams and the results show that our team improved every game," NMIFA president Jerry Tan said.

"I hope all of you had a great time in Nanjing and I also hope this competition has inspired you to continue your commitment to train harder as we prepare for next year's AFC U14 competition," Tan added.

For his part, NMIFA secretary general Ed Salas said getting recognition through the AFC website is a big boost in CNMI football, as the story proved that the Commonwealth is heading on the right direction as far as the development of the sport is concerned.

"Spectators, players, and coaches in China saw our players give all their best whether their down by a big margin or not. They are willing to learn and improve their skills and for that we're very proud of them," Salas said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	41	27	.603	–
Baltimore	39	30	.565	2 1/2
Tampa Bay	38	30	.559	3
Boston	35	33	.515	6
Toronto	35	34	.507	6 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	36	32	.529	–
Chicago	36	33	.522	1/2
Detroit	33	35	.485	3
Kansas City	31	36	.463	4 1/2
Minnesota	27	40	.403	8 1/2

West Division

Texas	43	27	.614	–
Los Angeles	38	32	.543	5
Oakland	33	36	.478	9 1/2
Seattle	30	41	.423	13 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	39	27	.591	–
New York	38	32	.543	3
Atlanta	37	32	.536	3 1/2
Miami	33	35	.485	7
Philadelphia	33	37	.471	8

Central Division

Cincinnati	38	30	.559	–
Pittsburgh	35	32	.522	2 1/2
St. Louis	35	34	.507	3 1/2
Milwaukee	32	37	.464	6 1/2
Houston	28	41	.406	10 1/2
Chicago	24	45	.348	14 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	42	27	.609	–
San Francisco	38	32	.543	4 1/2
Arizona	34	35	.493	8
Colorado	25	42	.373	16
San Diego	24	46	.343	18 1/2

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
James, MIA	21	232	160	645	30.7
Bryant, LAL	12	132	79	360	30.0
Durant, OKC	18	176	121	510	28.3
Anthony, NYK	5	52	31	139	27.8
Nowitzki, DAL	4	34	38	107	26.8
Wade, MIA	21	182	108	480	22.9
Westbrook, OKC	18	153	75	399	22.2
Parker, SAN	14	102	71	282	20.1
Garnett, BOS	20	159	65	384	19.2
Griffin, LAC	11	84	42	210	19.1
Davis, ORL	5	39	17	95	19.0
Gay, MEM	7	48	33	133	19.0
Lawson, DEN	7	56	12	133	19.0
Pierce, BOS	20	120	110	377	18.9
Jefferson, UTA	4	36	1	73	18.3
Paul, LAC	11	70	41	194	17.6
Duncan, SAN	14	101	41	243	17.4
Rondo, BOS	19	141	39	329	17.3
J. Johnson, ATL	6	38	18	103	17.2
Granger, IND	11	69	23	187	17.0

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Stoudemire, NYK	20	36	.556
Ibaka, OKC	79	146	.541
Faried, DEN	32	60	.533
Jefferson, UTA	36	68	.529
Gasol, MEM	36	69	.522
Durant, OKC	176		340 .518
Lawson, DEN	56	109	.514
James, MIA	232		463 .501
Griffin, LAC	84	168	.500
Hibbert, IND	52	104	.500

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Smith, ATL	5	10	58	68	13.6
Hibbert, IND	11	45	78	123	11.2
Bynum, LAL	12	46	87	133	11.1
Millsap, UTA	4	17	27	44	11.0
Garnett, BOS	20	31	175	206	10.3
Faried, DEN	7	25	45	70	10.0
Randolph, MEM	7	27	42	69	9.9
Boozer, CHI	6	10	49	59	9.8
James, MIA	21	47	157	204	9.7
McGee, DEN	7	23	44	67	9.6

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Rondo, BOS	19	227	11.9
Paul, LAC	11	87	7.9
Conley, MEM	7	50	7.1
Parker, SAN	14	95	6.8
Nelson, ORL	5	33	6.6
Lawson, DEN	7	42	6.0
Kidd, DAL	4	24	6.0
Miller, DEN	7	42	6.0
Westbrook, OKC	18	106	5.9
Watson, CHI	6	33	5.5

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RBC Mini-Rascal tourney opens with a bang

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The U10 and U12 Rascals along with the U14 Rebels came out victorious against separate opponents as the Rollers Basketball Club's Mini-Rascals Basketball Tournament tipped off last Tuesday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Tuesday's opener marked RBC's first-ever youth tournament of its kind, where full court five-on-five action took place on a smaller court.

The dimensions of the court were shrunk as portable baskets were moved on to the Garapan court. The height of the rims were lowered to allow more competitive matches between youth players.

The U10 Rascals survived the Little Rebels, 18-16, in overtime; the U12 Rascals routed the Mini-Rebels, 30-18; and the U14 Rebels clipped the Bombers, 35-33.

Little Rebels' Taiga Sato and Meko Quiambo each bagged a couple of buckets for a slim, 8-6, edge at halftime, but Rascals' Taka Borja led a second half push with 6 points that locked the game at 16-all at the end of regulation.

Rascals' Ichiro Borja then played the hero's role by scoring the only basket in overtime.

He led the Rascals with 8 points, while Rebels' Quiambo topped the class with 10 in defeat.

U12 Rascals' Emmuel Cabocha stole the show in the second pairing by almost singlehandedly matching the Little Rebels' total team output.

Cabocha tallied 10 points in the first half as his team built a stout 18-8 halftime lead and finished the second frame with another 8 markers en route to the easy win.

Mimi-Rebels' Angelo Factor managed 6 points to lead his squad, but Cabocha's hot hands delivered 18 in the runaway.

The U14 Rebels, meanwhile, clung to a 14-13 lead in the first half of the last matchup with Zion Alamer pacing the team with 6 points.

Bombers' Ed Cudia came alive in the clutch with 9 points, but Rebels' Angelo Factor came off the bench with a huge baker's dozen that made the difference in the end.

Factor buried a pair of 3-pointers for a 10-point string early in the period and followed it up with three free throws late in the game that helped seal the deal.

Factor ended up leading his team in points, one-upping teammate Alamer, while Bombers' Cudia and Adrian De Luna teamed up for 23 on the short end.

There was another set of matches held last night; details of those pairings will be released Saturday.

The season continues in Garapan on Tuesday with U10's Little Rebels taking on the Young Guns at 5pm followed at 5:40pm by U12's Rascals against the Young Guns. Then at 6:20pm, U14's Bombers meet up with the Rollers.

CONTRIBUTE PHOTO
U10 players in action in RBC's Mini-Rascal Basketball Tournament opener last Tuesday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

U10

Rascals 18 – Ichiro 8, Dan'ce 4, Shan 2, Borja 2.

Little Rebels 16 – Quiambo 10, Sato 6.

Scoring by halves: 6-8, 16-16, 18-16 (OT).

U12

Rascals 30 – Cabocha 18, Caracut 4, Mamral 4, Dela Cruz 2, Itaas 2.

Mini-Rebels 18 – A. Factor 6, Qui 4, Tam 4, T. Factor 2, Ohtha 2.

Scoring by halves: 18-8, 30-18.

14U

Rebels 14 – A. Factor 13, Alamer 12, Ellama 6, Tam 2, Lavape 2.

Bombers 33 – Cudia 13, De Luna 10, Subang 6, Flores 4.

Scoring by halves: 14-13, 35-33.

UFO caging salutes sponsors for support

United Filipino Organization president Bong Malasarte recently extended his gratitude to the support given by sponsors of the umbrella association's basketball leagues—the Docomo Pacific Cup and Budweiser Cup-Masters League.

Malasarte was especially overjoyed after seeing Marianas Resort & Spa general manager Gloria Cavanagh attend an exhibition game between Marianas Resort and Bayani-DYS during *Pistang Pinoy* celebrations last June 10 at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

"It's always heartwarming to see our sponsors support our league and their teams. More so if they attend the games," he said.

Malasarte disclosed that Cavanagh threw her full support in sponsoring a team in the UFO youth league. Aside from the $500 entrance fee, the Marianas Resort general manager also paid for the team's jerseys as well as promised to take care of water and ice for players during games.

Cavanagh, whose father was one of the founders of masters caging in Guam, said aside from sponsoring a team in the UFO youth league, Marianas Resort currently has a bowling league for employees and is looking forward to again hosting a go-kart race among tourism industry partners.

She said Marianas Resort is always happy to sponsor sports teams if it's within their budget.

In the past, Marianas Resort also sponsored bike races, donated to the Northern Mariana Islands Trades Institute, and continues to maintain the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi for the both the Saipan Swim Club and Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan.

The Marianas Resort team currently seeing action in the UFO youth league has a 3-1 win-loss record and is made up of Kevin Deleon, Melvin Cadiang, Ezra Cano, Jeron Ano, Eugene Manglona, Adrian Palacios, Sahj Hossain, Ian Benavente, and Tristan Ecalnea.

Other sponsors of the 2012 UFO caging are Armatech, Twinkle Bright, Erika's Catering, Hi-Five, LBT Appraisal, Fong's Bakery, Barney's Pizza, Aon Insurance, DeMolay, Division of Youth Services, and CMI. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marianas Resort & Spa general manager Gloria Cavanagh poses with Marianas Resort players during a break in their exhibition game against Bayani-DYS last June 10 in the Pistang Pinoy celebrations at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

NMBA to start youth summer clinic next month

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Youth players wait for their turn as Macoi Aguda leads a drill during Northern Marianas Badminton Association's summer clinic last year at the NMBA Gym at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

Northern Marianas Badminton Association will be holding the 2012 Youth Badminton Summer Clinic next month at the NMBA Gym at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

"We are encouraging parents to bring their children at the NMBA to learn the basics of badminton. Joining our clinic is one way of keeping your children active during school vacation," NMBA official Merlie Tolentino said. "Every summer, NMBA sees to it that we have something to offer our youth to help them stay healthy and active through sports.

The clinic will be divided into four sessions. The first session will run from July 2 to 6. The remaining schedules are from July 9 to 12, July 16 to 20, and July 23 to 27. Participants will receive certificates upon completion of the any of the five-day session. while the clinic will culminate with a tournament set for July 18 from 8am to 12pm.

The clinic will have two morning sessions with the 8am to 10am schedule allotted to participants in the 7 to 10 age group and the 10am to 12pm time to 11 to 18 division.

NMBA official Macoi Aguda will head the pool of coaches who will conduct the month-long clinic. Joining him are IT&E back-to-back men's singles A champion Andreau Galvez, men's B winner Jexler Caranto, Sam Jones, and Luis Camacho.

Registration fee is only $10 and there will be $5 discount for families who will register at least three members. Equipment and drinking water will be provided at the venue, but participants are requested to bring their own bottle/cup.

Registration can be made at Shirley's Coffee Shop Susupe and Garapan, Sun Palace Hotel, Yuujin Store, and the JP Centre Building or at the NMBA facebook page at www.facebook.com/northernmarianasbadmintonassociation. For more information, contact Tolentino at 235-3706 extension 158 or Aguda at 235-7622. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

XGA May Ace tourney tomorrow

The X-clusive Golfers Association is holding its May Ace of the Month tournament tomorrow, June 23, at Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort. Show time is set for noon with a 1pm tee off.

The group has fallen behind schedule, but hopes to catch back up in the coming months. X-clusive members participate in a variety of activities in the community in addition to golf.

Yoon Jae Tuk came away as April's monthly ace, joining January's J.J. Cabrera, February's Mike Sablan, and March's Kisoo Kim as qualifiers to XGA's yearend Ace of Aces tournament. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Back-to-back singles titles for Galvez

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Andreau Galvez retained the men's singles A crown after sweeping Ferdie Arago in their finals showdown in the IT&E Singles & Mixed Doubles Badminton Tournament 2012 last Saturday at the NMBA Gym at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

Galvez, who took last year's championship after surviving Dick Guintu in two hard-fought set, 21-18, 21-18, moved a game away from winning back-to-back titles after a 21-16 victory in the first game. The eventual champion was in control of the match, leading at the break, 11-9, as he held his ground against the power shots of Arago with a good mix of net and push shots and smashes.

Arago, who gave up the opening set after his smash went out of the baseline, was pressured to win the second game to extend the match and he delivered early as his smashes were going in and he also scored points off a couple of drops, catching Galvez off guard. At the halfway mark of the second game and with his teammates cheering him on, Arago managed to take the driver's seat, 11-7.

At the resumption of the second game, Arago and Galvez went neck-and-neck before the former committed two costly

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► Andreau Galvez returns to Ferdie Arago during their men's singles A title game in the IT&E tournament last weekend at the NMBA Gym at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Close wins in UFO Docomo Pacific Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Three teams had to sweat it out to come away with victories in the 2012 UFO Docomo Pacific Cup, last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In the first game, MDX/Armatech slipped past SMF/DYS, 72-70, to gain a share of the lead in the U17 division with the latter. MDX and SMF hold similar 2-1 records at the start of the second round of the double-round robin division.

The two-point win avenged MDX/Armatech's season-opening loss to SMF/DYS,

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MARK RABAGO
SMF/DYS' C.J. Morales is hounded by an MDX/Armatech defender during their first meeting in the U17 division of the UFO Docomo Pacific Cup at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last month. MDX lost the opener, but defeated SMF/DYS in the second meeting, 72-70.

N. Yankees exact Fielders second straight loss, 14-3

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Saipan Stevedore Company Northern Yankees (6-1) routed the IP&E Fielders (2-4), 14-3, in Tuesday's Saipan Major League Baseball Association matchup held at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfileld.

The Yankees' sixth win in seven games allowed it to keep pace with unbeaten Ol'Aces (5-0) and the Tan Holdings' Brewers (6-1) in the standings.

In other results, the Brewers (6-1) bested the Fielders, 5-1, on Wednesday, June 13, while the Ol'Aces defeated the St. Michael's Medical Response Angels (2-3), 9-4, back on June 6.

Notably, the Brewers and the Ol'Aces were recently awarded forfeit victories over the Angels and the Rep. Sylvester Iguel Masters (1-5). The Angels did

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Tan Holdings Brewers' Vince Cepeda, seen here in a file photo, pitched a one-hitter in his team's 5-1 victory over IP&E Fielders in the SMLBA last June 13 at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

CNMI U13 Team featured in AFC website

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's debut in the AFC U13 Girls Football Tournament was featured in "Inside AFC," a section in the website of the 47-nation member Asian Football Confederation.

The section published last Wednesday praised the gallant stand of the CNMI U13 Team that competed in the east division of the youth event played at the Jiangning Football Training Centre in Nanjing, China, from June 9 to 14.

"Debutants Northern Mariana Islands may not have finished among the top teams in the AFC U-13 Girls Football Tournament but they have gained invaluable experience which was more important than the results at this stage of their involvement in youth continental competitions," read the opening part of the story about the 20-player team handled by head coach Jimmy Tang and assistant Patricia Coleman and managed by Kevin Villagomez.

The CNMI Team, composed of Carla Mae Ballesteros, Guinevere Borja, Maile Aldrich, Britany Wally, Mary Kay Alferos, Patricia Santiago, Jesreelyn Bulaklak, Angelica and Lyka Sally, Bernadette Horey, Angelina Villagomez, Diana Maniacop, Samantha Manacop, Jasmine Phan, De'Jana Muna,

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Members and officials of the CNMI U13 Team pose for a group photo at the departure area of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport before heading to China for the AFC tournament early this month.